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Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2010

by Maire Sinha

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Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2010

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Symbols

.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0s	value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
p	preliminary
r	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
E	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published
*	significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2010: Highlights

Overview of family violence

- According to police-reported data for 2010, there were almost 99,000 victims of family violence, accounting for one-quarter (25%) of all victims of violent crime. Almost an equal proportion of these family violence victims were spouses (49%) or other types of family members, such as children, parents, siblings or extended family members (51%).
- Unlike other forms of violent crimes, females had more than double the risk of males of becoming a victim of police-reported family violence (407 victims per 100,000 population versus 180 victims per 100,000). This increased risk was primarily attributed to females' higher representation as victims of spousal violence.
- A comparison of family and non-family violence victims indicates that similar offences were committed against family and non-family members, with the exception of physical assaults and robberies. Physical assaults accounted for a greater proportion of violence against family members, while robberies occurred more frequently against non-family members.
- In 2010, 56% of family violence incidents resulted in charges laid or recommended. This was higher than the proportion (43%) of non-family violence incidents.
- Mirroring trends in homicide overall, rates of family homicide have been generally decreasing over the past thirty years, with a rate in 2010 that was 41% lower than in 1980.

Violence against intimate partners

- In 2010, there were over 102,500 victims of intimate partner violence, including spousal and dating violence. This translates into a rate of 363 per 100,000 population aged 15 years and older and was almost 2.5 times higher than the rate recorded for family violence against a child, parent or other family member (150 victims per 100,000).
- Dating violence was more prevalent than spousal violence, with a rate that was higher than all other relationship categories, including friends and acquaintances.
- Police-reported rates of intimate partner violence tended to be highest among female victims and among those aged 25 to 34 years. This contrasts non-intimate partner violence, where the victims were predominantly male and where rates were highest among those aged 15 to 24 years.
- Based on police-reported data, over half (51%) of victims of intimate partner violence suffered injuries, a greater proportion than non-intimate partner victims (39%).
- Findings from the 2009 General Social Survey (GSS) indicate that spousal victims were more likely than other victims to be first victimized as a child. This was true for spousal victims of physical and sexual assault.
- According to police-reported data, intimate partner violence was more likely than non-intimate partner violence to result in charges being laid or recommended (68% versus 38%). Charges were also more common when the victim of intimate partner violence was a woman (71%) than a man (57%).
- In general, rates of homicides against intimate partners have dropped over the previous twenty years. This decrease was seen for homicides against both spouses and dating partners, and was most pronounced for female victims of intimate partner homicides.

- Over the past decade, more than half (65%) of spouses accused of homicide had a history of family violence involving the victim. This was most often the case when the spousal victim was estranged from their partner, including those divorced or separated from a legal marriage or common-law relationship.

Family violence against children and youth

- In 2010, 18,710 children and youth aged 17 and under were the victims of police-reported family violence. This represents about one-quarter of all violent offences committed against children and youth.

- Police-reported rates of family violence were generally higher among older children and youth, though this was not the case for homicides. Between 2000 and 2010, the rate of family homicide was highest among infants under one. Over this same ten year period, the vast majority of homicides of infants and toddlers were committed by parents (98% of family homicides against infants under one, and 90% of family homicides of children aged 1 to 3 years).

- Family violence was more prevalent among girls than boys (338 victims per 100,000 versus 212 per 100,000). The leading contributor to the higher rates of family violence among girls, particularly as they age, relates to their much higher risk of sexual violence. They were more than four times as likely as boys to be a victim of sexual assault or other sexual offences committed by a family member (134 victims per 100,000 population versus 30 per 100,000 population).

- In 2010, child and youth victims were nearly as likely to sustain physical injury by a family member or non-family member (40% versus 37%). This was true for physical and sexual assaults, but was not consistently evident for all offence types.

- Charges were more commonly laid or recommended when a family member was identified as the accused in violence against children or youth, compared to violence not involving family members (45% versus 34%).

- Children and youth were most at risk of police-reported family violence in small cities, towns and rural areas, with a rate more than double the rate recorded for census metropolitan areas (CMAs).

- Results from the GSS indicate that between 2004 and 2009, there was an increase in the proportion of spousal violence victims reporting that children heard or saw assaults on them (from 43% to 52% of spousal victims with children).

- According to the 2009 GSS, children seeing or witnessing spousal violence was most prevalent when the victim was female or was estranged from their legal or common-law spouse.

- The 2009 GSS indicates that parents were almost four times as likely to involve the police when a child witnessed the incident of spousal violence than when children were not present during the spousal violence incident (39% versus 10%).

Family violence against seniors

- Based on police-reported data, nearly 2,800 seniors aged 65 years and older were the victims of family violence in 2010. Presented as a rate, the senior population had the lowest risk of violence compared to any other age group, irrespective of whether the incident involved a family member or someone outside the family.

- Overall, seniors were most at risk from friends or acquaintances (73 victims per 100,000 seniors), followed by family members (61 victims per 100,000) and strangers (51 victims per 100,000). Grown children were most often identified as the perpetrator of family violence against seniors.

- In 2010, the rate of spousal violence for senior women was more than double the male rate (22 versus 10 per 100,000 population). Senior women were also slightly more likely than senior men to be victimized by their children in 2010 (27 per 100,000 versus 24 per 100,000 population).

- In 2010, two-thirds (67%) of incidents of family violence against seniors involved physical assaults, a larger proportion than the share of non-family violence incidents (45%).

- For both sexes, grown children were the most common perpetrators of family violence (39% of women and 46% of men). This was particularly the case when the violence escalated to the killing of seniors. Over the past decade, half (50%) of all family homicides against seniors were committed by grown children.

- Despite annual fluctuations, rates of family homicides against seniors have been relatively steady over the previous fifteen years. Rates of family and non-family homicides against seniors are at near parity in recent years.

- The leading motives for family homicides of seniors were frustration and the escalation of an argument (32% and 26%). In contrast, financial gain was the leading motive in non-family homicides, reflecting the finding that one-quarter of all non-family homicides against seniors were committed during the commission of a robbery.

Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2010

by Maire Sinha

Each year since 1998, as part of the larger federal Family Violence Initiative,[1] Statistics Canada has released an annual report that examines the nature and extent of family violence in Canada. Along with other goals, the Initiative serves to promote public awareness of the risk factors associated with family violence and aims to enhance data collection, analysis, research and evaluation efforts that inform policies and programs.

The annual publication is designed to help monitor changes in family violence over time and identify emerging issues. Accordingly, each report presents trend data on the magnitude of the problem in Canada and profiles a different aspect of family violence. Previous annual reports have focused on such topics as stalking, criminal justice system responses to family violence, and shelters for abused women.

The special focus of this year's report is a comparative analysis of family violence incidents and other forms of violent crime. This analysis will help broaden the current understanding of the factors that make violence within the family a unique type of victimization.

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[1] The Family Violence Initiative is a horizontal collaboration of 15 federal departments, agencies and Crown corporations.

Section 1: Overview of family violence

By Maire Sinha

Defining family violence in Canada

Defining family violence is integral to accurately profiling the issue. While there is no universally accepted definition of family violence, two elements must be considered in any definition: the forms of violence to be included and the types of family relationships. Within the Family Violence Initiative, family violence has been conceptualized as "a range of abusive behaviours that occur within relationships based on kinship, intimacy, dependency or trust" (Family Violence Initiative Performance Report, 2008). This definition is far-reaching and can encompass physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and financial victimization, or neglect. Within this publication, analysis of violence within the family is primarily based on statistical data that are consistent with *Criminal Code* definitions, unless otherwise stated.

Determining the family relationships for inclusion in a definition of family violence is also a question of scope. Past publications have addressed the different dimensions of family violence for three primary victim groups: spouses (legally married, separated, divorced, and common law partners), children and youth under 18 years of age, and seniors aged 65 years and older. Essentially, family relationships have been defined by the accused person's relationship to the victim through blood, marriage, co-habitation (in the case of common-law partners), foster care, or adoption.

Recently, there has been some consideration within the research community both nationally and internationally and by federal, provincial and territorial governments towards including all types of intimate partner relationships, including dating partners, in a definition of family violence (see, for example, Justice Canada 2009, PEI Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention Administration Committee 2010). Violence against dating partners has been argued to fall within the definition of family violence, due to its many similarities with spousal violence. For example, previous research has found that the characteristics of police-reported dating violence generally mirror those of spousal violence (Hotton Mahony 2010). In addition, from a prevention perspective, understanding the characteristics of violence in dating relationships is important to the development of effective programming. Research has found that individuals' experiences in early dating relationships can have an impact on future patterns of violence for both victims and abusers (Wolfe 2006; Close 2005).

As a result, for the first time, this publication will explore the impact of including dating violence within a definition of family violence. This exploration will involve an examination of the overall prevalence of family violence with and without the inclusion of dating violence. For most sections, the analysis of risk factors and offence characteristics will be based on a definition of family violence that excludes victims of dating violence. The one exception is the section on intimate partner violence. For this section, differences between spousal and dating partner violence will be delineated, including both the analysis of the prevalence of each form of intimate partner violence and the examination of detailed victim, accused and incident characteristics.

Measuring family violence in Canada

As with previous editions of *Family Violence in Canada*, two main sources of information are used to measure and analyze family violence: police-reported information from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey and the Homicide Survey, and self-reported victimization data from the General Social Survey on Victimization. These data sources yield complementary yet different types of information on violence within families.

As mandatory annual censuses of all police services in Canada, the UCR Survey and the Homicide Survey provide trend data, as well as national, provincial/territorial, and census metropolitan area (CMA) level information on *Criminal Code* offences that are reported to and substantiated by police. Both surveys collect data on the characteristics of victims, accused and incidents. Consequently, risk factors such as age, sex and marital status can be examined for all victims of family violence as well as indicators of offence severity.

While all *Criminal Code* offences are captured by the UCR Survey, the survey does not record victim information for non-violent crime, such as the relationship of the accused to the victim. As a result, it is not possible to identify non-violent incidents that targeted family members. For instance, it is not possible to examine financial abuse against family members such as theft, forgery and fraud, that are criminal in nature but do not have a violent component.

The UCR Survey is limited to only those incidents that come to the attention of police, which may be a greater issue for incidents of family violence, as these violent acts have historically had lower levels of reporting to police (Bala 2008). The General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization complements police reported data in that it helps to explore the large amount of crime in Canada that goes unreported to police.[2] It is also able to provide information on non-violent forms of abuse (e.g., emotional and financial abuse), consequences of victimization, levels of reporting to police, children's exposure to spousal violence, and social service utilization. Since the GSS is a voluntary household survey, it relies on the willingness of Canadians to participate. While some Canadians refuse to participate, other groups may be unable to participate because of cognitive impairments, compromised mental health, restricted access to a telephone (for example, individuals without a landline telephone and victims of family violence whose activities are severely restricted) or inability to communicate in English or French.[3]

Some populations that are potentially vulnerable to family violence, including those who are dependent on others for their basic needs, are not included within the GSS on Victimization. In particular, the GSS solely asks persons aged 15 years and older living in private dwellings about their experiences of victimization. As a result, children under 15 years of age and individuals living in institutions, such as long-term care facilities, are not eligible to participate in the survey. Only official sources of information, such as reports from police, child welfare agencies[4] and medical and social service surveillance systems are able to yield information on direct violence against children under the age of 15 and persons living in institutions.[5] That said, even with these reports from authorities, the prevalence of abuse against children and institutionalized seniors is difficult to measure because it often relies on other individuals to detect and report the abuse.[6]

In addition to these police-reported and victimization surveys, other data sources are presented in the current report. Contextual information is also included throughout the report to better explain the nature of victimization, as it is understood that family violence does not exist in isolation, but occurs alongside a range of individual and social factors (Diem and Pizarro 2010; Thomas and Bennett 2009).

Overview of family violence in Canada

Until 30 years ago, violence committed against family members was largely seen as a private matter and remained hidden (Montalvo-Liendo 2009; Richie 2006; Dawson 2001). Since then, there have been substantial changes in the criminal justice system response and social intervention to family violence. This has been accompanied by a shift in the public's understanding and awareness of the issue. Violent acts committed against family members are now recognized as serious violent crimes (Bala 2008; Schneider 2007).

While the *Criminal Code* does not contain separate violent offences based on the relationship of the victim and offender, perpetrators of violent acts against family members can be charged with the appropriate criminal offence, such as homicide, assault, sexual assault, or criminal harassment. Further, the *Criminal Code* considers the abuse of a spouse or child or any position of trust or authority to be an aggravating factor at sentencing. Other *Criminal Code* provisions can assist victims of family violence, including the availability of protection orders and the enhancement of testimonial aids for vulnerable victims (Justice Canada n.d.). Beyond the *Criminal Code,* some provinces[7] and all three territories have also adopted civil legislation specific to family violence. These pieces of legislation serve to provide additional supports and protection to victims of family violence.

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[2] Results from the General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization are based on findings for the provinces. Data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded.

[3] In 2009, the response rate for the GSS on Victimization was 61.6%. Types of non-response included respondents who refused to participate, could not be reached, or could not speak English or French. For further information, see the Data sources section.

[4] The Canadian Incidence Study on Child Neglect and Abuse collects data on reports of neglect and abuse that come to the attention of provincial/territorial child welfare authorities.

[5] The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey and the Homicide Survey are not able to indicate if the violence against the senior took place in a long-term care facility.

[6] In some cases, child welfare workers and health and social service workers may be in regular contact with children and seniors because of previous concerns of abuse or because of existing health or cognitive conditions in the case of seniors.

[7] The provinces with civil legislation are Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

Procedurally, police, courts, and corrections have also recognized the unique needs of victims and offenders of family violence. Criminal justice initiatives have included changes to policing protocols (such as pro-charging policies), domestic violence investigation units within police services including programs for dating partners, specialized training programs for police and Crown counsels, dedicated domestic violence courts, and family violence treatment interventions within correctional systems (Correctional Services of Canada n.d.; Public Health Agency of Canada 2008).

As previously mentioned, understanding the unique nature of family violence is the theme of this year's publication. The analysis will examine the following research questions for family violence as a whole and for each victim group (intimate partners, children and youth, and seniors):

- How are the socio-demographic risk factors for family violence, such as age and sex, different from other forms of violence?
- Does the severity of violence perpetrated by family members differ from violence committed by non-family members?
- Are perpetrators accused of family violence more likely than other persons accused of violence to be charged by police?
- Are regional variations in the prevalence of family violence similar to those in non-family violence?

One in four victims of violent crime was victimized by a spouse or other family member

Based on the traditional definition of family violence[8] which excludes dating violence,[9] there were almost 99,000 victims of family violence in 2010, accounting for one-quarter (25%) of all police-reported victims of violent crime (Table 1.1). Almost an equal proportion of these family violence victims were spouses (49%) or other types of family members, such as children, parents, siblings or extended family members (51%).

To understand the relative prevalence of family violence, rates of family violence can be compared to other forms of violence. In 2010, there were 294 victims of family violence for every 100,000 Canadians (Chart 1.1). This police-reported rate of family violence was similar to the rate of stranger violence (307 per 100,000), but was nearly half the rate involving acquaintances or friends (574 per 100,000). Included in the latter category are dating violence victims, including those in a current and former dating relationship with the accused. In all, dating violence victims accounted for 28% of victims of acquaintance and friend-related violence.

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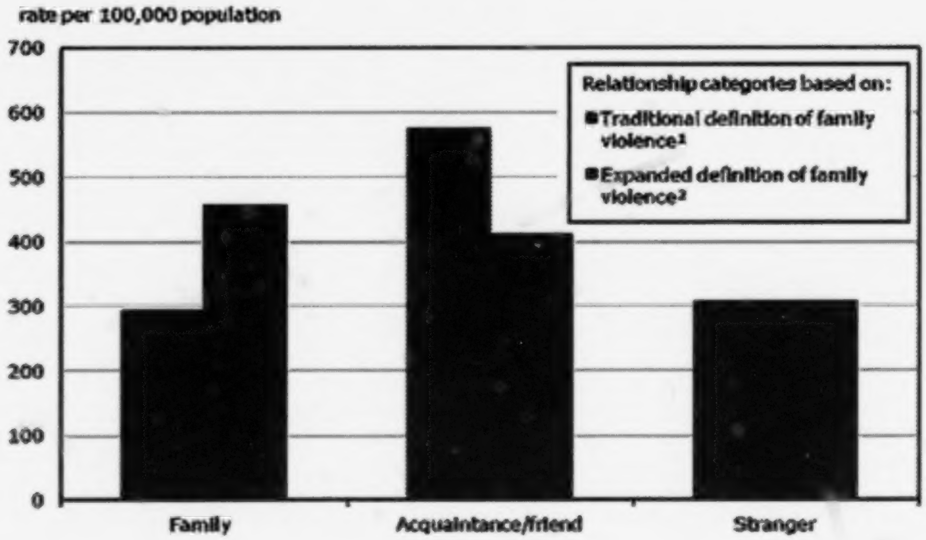
[8] Includes those related by blood, marriage, co-habitation, foster care, or adoption. Violent crime includes violations causing death, attempted murder, sexual assaults, assaults, robbery, criminal harassment, uttering threats and other violations involving violence or the threat of violence.

[9] Dating relationships include current or former boyfriends and girlfriends, as well as 'other intimate relationships'. 'Other intimate relationships' are defined in the Incident-based UCR2 Survey as "a person with whom the victim had a sexual relationship or a mutual sexual attraction but to which none of the other relationship options apply".

Chart 1.1
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by type of accused-victim relationship, 2010



1. The traditional definition of family violence excludes dating violence. According to this definition, family relationships are defined by the accused person's relationship to the victim through blood, marriage, co-habitation (in the case of common-law partners), foster care, or adoption.
2. The expanded definition of family violence includes dating violence. According to this definition, family relationships are defined by the accused relationship to the victim as an intimate partner (including spouses and dating partners) or through blood, foster care, or adoption.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

If the definition of family violence is expanded to include dating relationships, the representation of family violence victims as a proportion of all victims of violence would increase from 25% to 39% of all victims. As well, family violence would then have the highest rate of violent crime among all major relationship categories. At 457 victims per 100,000 population, the rate would be 11% higher than the rate for acquaintances or friends (411) and 49% higher than the rate for strangers (307) (Chart 1.1).

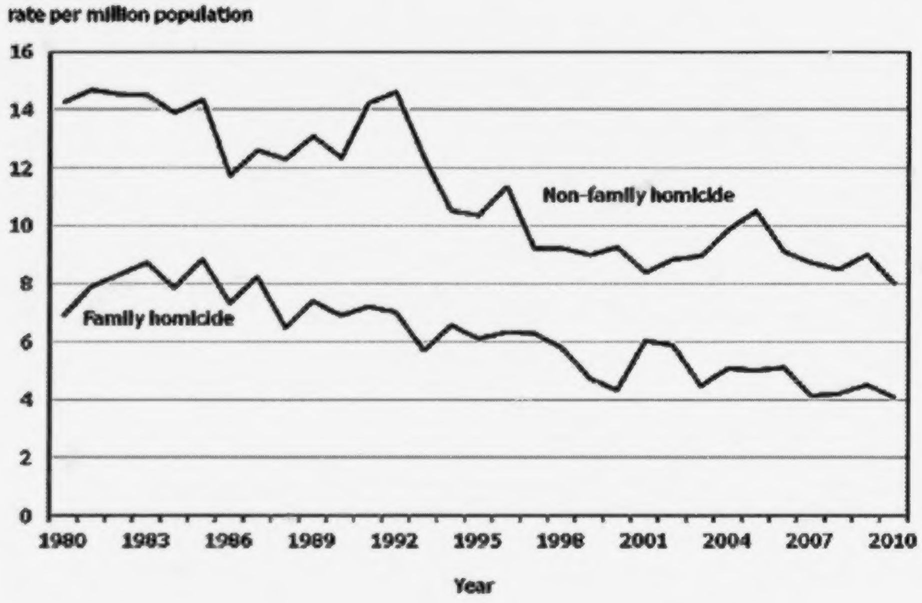
However, regardless of the definition of family violence used, when violence culminated in the killing of the victim, friends or acquaintances were most often responsible (Table 1.2). In particular, between 2000 and 2010, family members excluding dating partners accounted for 35% of all solved homicides, lower than the proportion (49%) committed by friends and acquaintances. The inclusion of dating homicides in the definition of family homicides does not impact the overall patterns, as family homicides would still represent a smaller proportion of solved homicides than the share of acquaintance or friend-related homicides (39% versus 45%). The one exception to this finding was homicides involving children and youth victims under the age of 18. The vast majority of these homicides over the past 10 years were perpetrated by family members (59% excluding dating partner homicides and 62% using a definition including dating partner homicides).

Rates of family homicide continues to decrease

Tracking changes in rates of family violence can help inform the development and evaluation of programs and policies designed to reduce this form of violence. As previously mentioned, issues of underreporting to police may be particularly evident among incidents family violence (Bala 2008). For this reason, trends in homicides are often used as a barometer of family violence (Nivette 2011, Gannon et al. 2005). Mirroring trends in homicide overall, rates of family homicide excluding dating homicide have been generally decreasing over the past thirty years, with a rate in 2010 that was 41% lower than in 1980 (Chart 1.2).

Chart 1.2

Victims of family and non-family homicide, Canada, 1980 to 2010



Note: Family homicide refers to homicide committed by spouses, parents, children, siblings, and extended family. Non-family homicide refers to homicide committed by friends, casual acquaintances, dating partners, business associates, criminal associates, authority figures, and strangers. Excludes homicides where the age and/or sex of the victim was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

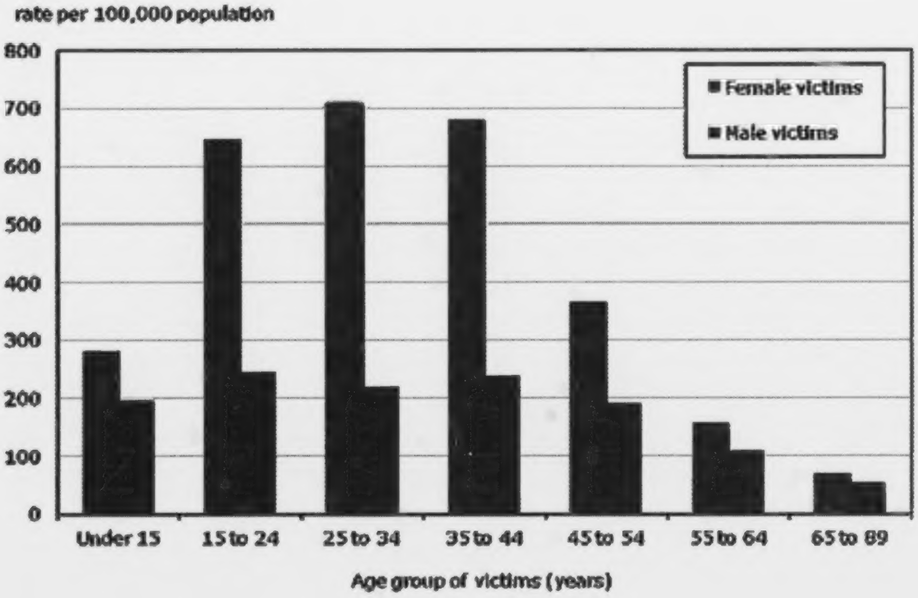
Family violence victims primarily girls and women

Unless otherwise noted, the following sections examine the characteristics of family violence according to the definition of family violence exclusive of dating violence. An examination of risk factors for family violence (excluding dating violence) reveals that unlike other forms of violence, victims of police-reported family violence are predominantly female. In 2010, 7 in 10 (70%) victims of police-reported family violence were girls or women.

Looking at rates, the risk of becoming a victim of police-reported family violence was more than twice as high for girls and women as it was for boys and men (407 per 100,000 versus 180 per 100,000). This heightened risk of family violence among girls and women was true regardless of age, but was most pronounced among those aged 25 to 34 years (Chart 1.3). Females in this age group were over three times more likely than their male counterparts to become a victim of family violence (rate of 709 per 100,000 versus 216 per 100,000 population). The main factor behind females' increased risk of family violence is related to their higher representation as victims of spousal violence. Women aged 15 years and older accounted for 81% of all spousal violence victims.

Chart 1.3

Victims of police-reported family violence, by sex and age group of the victim, Canada, 2010

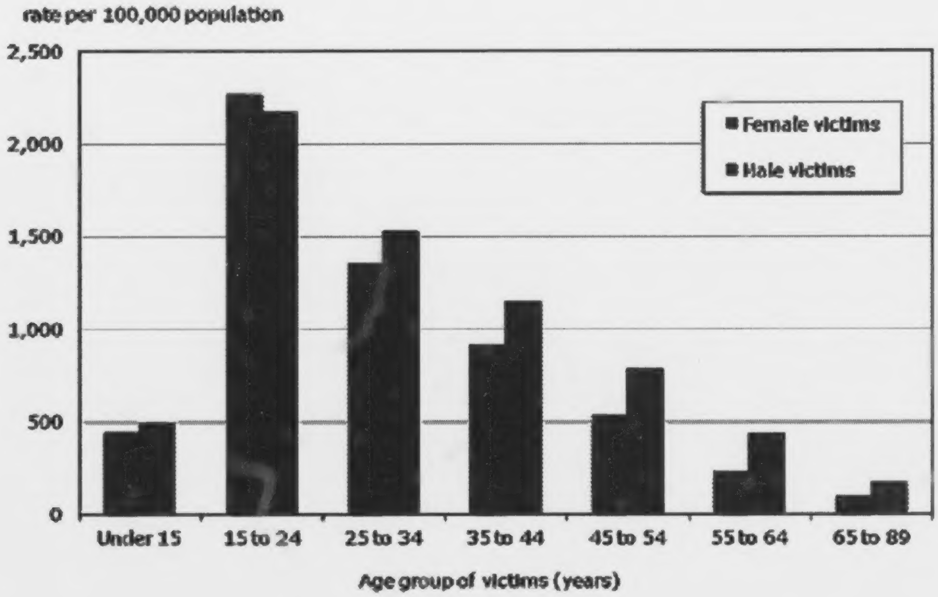


Note: Family violence includes violence committed by spouses, parents, children, siblings, and extended family. Spouses include those aged 15 to 89 years, while other family members include those aged 0 to 89 years. Excludes incidents where the age and/or sex of the victim was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

While the rate of police-reported non-family violence was generally lower among females than males, this was not consistently the case across all age groups. In particular, women aged 15 to 24 years were more likely than similarly aged men to be victims of non-family violence (2,259 versus 2,176 per 100,000 population) (Chart 1.4). This can be largely explained by young women's increased vulnerability to dating violence. Further, differences between age-based rates for females and males were smaller for non-family violence, compared to differences in rates of family violence.

Chart 1.4
Victims of police-reported non-family violence, by sex and age group of the victim, Canada, 2010



Note: Non-family violence refers to violence committed by dating partners, friends, casual acquaintances, business associates, criminal associates, authority figures, and strangers. Includes victims aged 0 to 89 years. Excludes incidents where the age and/or sex of the victim was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Physical assaults more common among incidents of family violence than non-family violence

Police-reported data suggest that although there are some similarities in the types of violent offences committed against family and non-family victims, there are two notable exceptions. First, family violence is more likely to involve physical assaults. In 2010, 70% of all victims of family violence were victims of physical assault (Table 1.3). The same was true for 58% of non-family violence victims.

Second, family violence less frequently involved robbery offences. This violent crime accounted for less than 1% of family violence incidents, compared to 9% of non-family violence incidents.

Victims of family violence more likely than victims of non-family violence to sustain injury

As a reflection of the higher volume of offences that more often result in injury to victims, notably physical assault, a greater proportion of victims of family violence (46%) sustained injury compared to other victims of violent crime (41%).

However, in examining specific types of offences, there was little difference in the incidences of injury between victims of family and non-family violence. As would be expected, the prevalence of injury tends to be higher for those offences that characteristically involve the use of physical force or weapons, regardless of the relationship between the accused to the victim. For example, police-reported common assaults resulted in injuries to 58% of family violence victims, about the same proportion as non-family violence victims (59%). Also, an equal proportion of sexual assault victims of family violence and non-family violence suffered injuries (21% each). Offences that most often involved threatening behaviour rather than the use of physical force or weapons were least likely to result in injuries to the victims. For example, an equal proportion of family violence victims and victims of non-family violence suffered injuries as a result of criminal harassment (1% each).

Charges laid by police more often when incidents involve family members

As previously mentioned, police response to the issue of family violence has evolved over the years, particularly with the introduction of pro-charging policies in the 1980s (Garner and Maxwell 2009). In general, those accused of victimizing their spouses or other family members were more likely than other perpetrators to have charges laid or recommended by police, with the exception of 'other assaults', which includes such offences as unlawfully causing bodily harm and discharging firearm with intent. In 2010, 56% of accused family members were charged (or had charges recommended), compared to 43% of other accused.[10] Also, a higher proportion of accused family members than other perpetrators were cleared by other means (29% versus 25%). Incidents may be cleared by other means for a variety of reasons, including the complainant declined to lay charges, use of departmental discretion, and reasons beyond the control of the department.

There were notable gender differences in charging patterns among family violence incidents. For example, when the victim was female, police were more likely to lay a charge against the accused family member (60% versus 46% incidents against male victims). While this was also true for non-family violence incidents, the gendered pattern in charging was partly driven by dating violence incidents. In dating violence incidents, the accused was more likely to be charged if the victim was female (69% versus 57% of incidents involving male victims).

Ontario records the lowest rate of family violence

In all provinces and territories, rates of police-reported family violence were lower than the combined violent crime rate against friends, dating partners, acquaintances, and strangers without exception. In 2010, the rate of family violence in Ontario was the lowest in the country and except for Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, rates in all other provinces and territories were above the Canadian average (Table 1.4). By comparison, rates of non-family violence were lowest in Quebec, followed by Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Alberta. For both family and non-family violence, rates were highest in the territories, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

An examination of family homicide reveals regional variations similar to overall rates of family violence. Rates of family homicide were lowest in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia (Table 1.5).

Contrasting the similarity in regional patterns between family homicide and family violence overall, regional patterns for non-family homicide differ somewhat from overall rates of non-family violence. Prince Edward Island had the lowest rate of non-family homicides, followed by Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick. As with family violence overall, the territories, along with Manitoba and Saskatchewan had the highest rates of family-related homicide.

Rates of family violence lower among CMAs than non-CMAs

For the first time, rates of family violence can be examined at the census metropolitan area (CMA) level.[11] In 2010, CMAs generally had lower levels of family violence than non-CMAs, which include small cities, towns and rural areas. That said, there were significant variations in rates of family violence across the CMAs. For instance, the rate recorded in Saint John was over four times higher than the lowest rate recorded in Ottawa (Table 1.6).

For the most part, the CMAs with the highest rates of family violence also had rates of non-family violence above the national average. The only departure from this pattern was the Quebec CMAs of Gatineau, Montréal and Saguenay. These cities all recorded rates of family violence above the Canadian average but had rates of non-family violence below average.

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[10] Excludes Montreal police service due to the unavailability of clearance data.

[11] A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.

Summary

For the past thirteen years, Statistics Canada has released an annual report on family violence in Canada. This year marks the first time the publication has undertaken an exploration into the statistical impact of expanding a definition of family violence to include dating partners. This exploration revealed differences in the overall prevalence of family violence depending on whether dating violence was excluded or included from a definition of family violence. When dating violence was excluded, the rate of family violence was similar to the rate for stranger violence but lower than the rate for friends and acquaintances. In contrast, the rate of family violence including dating violence was higher than all other major relationship categories.

This year's focus on a comparative analysis of family violence and non-family violence reveals some important differences between the two types of police-reported violence. In 2010, victims of police-reported family violence (excluding victims of dating violence) were disproportionately female, contrasting the findings for non-family violence. Further, family violence is sometimes more severe than other forms of violence. Despite the similarity in incidences of injury between victims of family and non-family violence for particular types of offences, the higher volume of physical assaults translates into an overall higher frequency of injury among victims of family violence. In general, victims of family violence were also more likely have physical force used against them. Those accused of family violence were also more often than other perpetrators to have charges laid or recommended by police.

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Detailed data tables

Table 1.1
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by sex of victim and relationship of the accused to the victim, Canada, 2010

	Female victims		Male victims		Total	
Relationship of accused to victim	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
Total spouses	**39,297**	**19**	**9,359**	**5**	**48,656**	**12**
Current spouse[1]	27,237	13	6,281	3	33,518	8
Ex-spouse[2]	12,060	6	3,078	2	15,138	4
Other immediate and extended family	29,518	14	20,783	11	50,301	13
Parent[3]	9,907	5	7,307	4	17,214	4
Child[4]	5,388	3	3,064	2	8,452	2
Sibling[5]	6,365	3	4,622	2	10,987	3
Extended family[6]	7,858	4	5,790	3	13,648	3
Total victims of family violence excluding dating violence	**68,815**	**34**	**30,142**	**16**	**98,957**	**25**
Dating partners[7]	43,562	21	11,261	6	54,823	14
Boyfriend/girlfriend	25,070	12	6,262	3	31,332	8
Ex-boyfriend/girlfriend	17,559	9	4,561	2	22,120	6
Other intimate partner	933	0	438	0	1,371	0
Total victims of family violence including dating violence	**112,377**	**55**	**41,403**	**22**	**153,780**	**39**
Close friend	7,998	4	8,250	4	16,248	4
Business relationship	6,654	3	10,755	6	17,409	4
Casual acquaintance	41,935	21	54,349	28	96,284	24
Criminal relationship[8]	414	0	1,991	1	2,405	1
Authority figure[9]	2,525	1	3,380	2	5,905	1
Stranger	32,565	16	70,643	37	103,208	26
Unknown[10]	74	...	127	...	201	...
Total victims of violent crime[11]	**204,542**	**100**	**190,898**	**100**	**395,440**	**100**

... not applicable
1. Current spouse includes legally married and common-law partners aged 15 years and older.
2. Ex-spouse includes separated and divorced partners aged 15 years and older.
3. Includes a small number of victims under 18 years of age where the relationship of the accused to the victim was miscoded as 'child' and was therefore recoded as 'parent'.
4. Includes a small number of victims aged 65 years and older where the relationship of the accused to the victim was miscoded as 'parent' and was therefore recoded as 'child'.
5. Sibling includes biological, step, half, foster or adopted brother or sister.
6. Extended family includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents.
7. Dating relationships include victims under 90 years of age, including those dating partner victims under the age of 15. The counts for dating partner victims do not match the information presented elsewhere in this report due to differences in the ages covered.
8. Criminal relationship includes those relationships with the victim based on illegal activities, such as drugs or prostitution.
9. Authority figure includes persons in a position of trust or authority who is not a family member.
10. Unknown includes incidents where the relationship between the victim and the accused was reported by police as unknown.
11. Violent crime includes violations causing death, attempted murder, sexual assaults, assaults, robbery, criminal harassment, uttering threats and other violations involving violence or the threat of violence.

Note: Percentage calculations are based on incidents where the relationship between the victim and the accused was known. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 1.2
Victims of homicide, by sex of victim and relationship of the accused to the victim, Canada, 2000 to 2010

	Female victims		**Male victims**		**Total**	
Relationship of accused to victim	**number**	**percent of total solved homicides**	**number**	**percent of total solved homicides**	**number**	**percent of total solved homicides**
Spouse[1]	630	40	174	5	804	16
Current legal spouse[2]	244	15	38	1	282	6
Current common-law[3]	214	14	116	3	330	7
Separated[4]	161	10	19	1	180	4
Divorced	11	1	1	0	12	0
Parent[5]	162	10	173	5	335	7
Father	100	6	119	4	219	4
Mother	62	4	54	2	116	2
Child[6]	109	7	117	4	226	5
Son	93	6	105	3	198	4
Daughter	16	1	12	0	28	1
Sibling[7]	28	2	76	2	104	2
Brother	22	1	70	2	92	2
Sister	6	0	6	0	12	0
Extended family[8]	72	5	167	5	239	5
Total family homicide excluding dating homicide	**1,001**	**63**	**707**	**21**	**1,708**	**35**
Dating[9]	148	9	67	2	215	4
Total family homicide including dating homicide	**1,149**	**73**	**774**	**23**	**1,923**	**39**
Close friend	42	3	300	9	342	7
Business relationship	11	1	75	2	86	2
Casual acquaintance	160	10	920	28	1,080	22
Criminal relationship[10]	73	5	453	14	526	11
Authority figure[11]	11	1	9	0	20	0
Neighbour	30	2	108	3	138	3
Stranger	105	7	694	21	799	16
Relationship unknown	7	...	34	...	41	...
Unsolved homicides	246	...	1,284	...	1,530	...
Total solved homicides	**1,588**	**100**	**3,367**	**100**	**4,955**	**100**
Total homicides	**1,834**	**...**	**4,651**	**...**	**6,485**	**...**

... not applicable

1. Spouses include victims aged 15 years and older.
2. Current legal spouse includes legally married partners.
3. Current common-law includes persons in a current common-law relationship.
4. Separated includes those separated from a legal or common-law relationship.
5. Parent includes biological, adoptive, step and foster parents.
6. Child includes biological, adoptive, step and foster children.
7. Sibling includes biological, adoptive, step and foster siblings.
8. Extended family includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents.
9. Dating includes current boyfriends/girlfriends, previous boyfriends/girlfriends and other intimate partners.
10. Criminal relationship includes those relationships with the victim based on illegal activities, such as drugs or prostitution.
11. Authority figure includes persons in a position of trust or authority.

Note: Percentage calculations are based on solved homicides and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was known. Excludes homicides where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 1.3
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by family and non-family members and type of offence, Canada, 2010

	Victims of family violence[1]		Victims of non-family violence[2]		Total	
Type of offence	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
Homicide/attempts	287	0.3	842	0.3	1,129	0.3
Sexual assault[3]	7,531	8	17,889	6	25,420	6
Physical assault	69,652	70	170,566	58	240,218	61
Major assault (levels 2 and 3)[4]	12,708	13	40,477	14	53,185	13
Common assault (level 1)[5]	54,386	55	114,219	39	168,605	43
Other assaults[6]	2,558	3	15,870	5	18,428	5
Criminal harassment	4,386	4	14,747	5	19,133	5
Indecent/harassing phone calls	3,055	3	15,359	5	18,414	5
Uttering threats	11,767	12	44,581	15	56,348	14
Robbery	264	0	26,819	9	27,083	7
Other violent offences[7]	2,015	2	5,479	2	7,494	2
Total	**98,957**	**100**	**296,282**	**100**	**395,239**	**100**

1. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners), parents, children, siblings, and extended family. Spousal victims includes those aged 15 to 89 years. All other family relationships include victims aged 0 to 89 years.
2. Non-family violence refers to violence committed by dating partners, friends, casual acquaintances, business associates, criminal associates, authority figures, and strangers. Includes victims aged 0 to 89 years.
3. Includes sexual assault, classified as one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incidents, as well as other sexual crimes. Level 1 sexual assault is the category of least physical injury to the victim; level 2 includes sexual assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm; and level 3 includes aggravated sexual assault which wounds, maims, disfigures, or endangers the life of the victim.
4. Level 2 assault is defined as assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and level 3 assault is defined as assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.
5. Level 1 assault is the least serious form of assault and includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats.
6. Includes unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge firearm with intent, assault against peace-public officer, and other assaults.
7. Includes criminal negligence causing bodily harm, kidnapping, hostage-taking, explosives causing death/bodily harm, arson and other violent violations.

Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Totals do not match the information presented in Table 1.1 due to the exclusion of unknown relationships. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 1.4
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by family and non-family members, province and territory, 2010

	Victims of family violence[1]		**Victims of non-family violence[2]**		**Total**	
Province and territory	**number**	**rate[3]**	**number**	**rate[3]**	**number**	**rate[3]**
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,604	316	4,992	985	6,596	1,301
Prince Edward Island	330	234	1,236	875	1,566	1,109
Nova Scotia	2,472	264	10,705	1,145	13,177	1,409
New Brunswick	2,384	319	7,958	1,066	10,342	1,386
Quebec	26,037	333	51,796	663	77,833	996
Ontario	25,413	196	90,532	697	115,945	893
Manitoba	5,104	430	18,183	1,531	23,287	1,961
Saskatchewan	6,534	644	18,399	1,815	24,933	2,459
Alberta	13,010	351	36,697	990	49,707	1,341
British Columbia	13,574	302	50,131	1,116	63,705	1,418
Yukon	290	842	1,061	3,079	1,351	3,921
Northwest Territories	1,073	2,455	2,438	5,579	3,511	8,035
Nunavut	1,132	3,409	2,154	6,487	3,286	9,897
Canada	**98,957**	**294**	**296,282**	**881**	**395,239**	**1,175**

1. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners), parents, children, siblings, and extended family. Spousal victims include those aged 15 to 89 years. All other family relationships include victims aged 0 to 89 years.

2. Non-family violence refers to violence committed by dating partners, friends, casual acquaintances, business associates, criminal associates, authority figures, and strangers. Includes victims aged 0 to 89 years.

3. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Totals do not match the information presented in Table 1.1 due to the exclusion of unknown relationships.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 1.5
Victims of family and non-family homicides, by province and territory, 2000 to 2010

	Victims of family homicide[1]		Victims of non-family homicide[2]		Total	
Province and territory	**number**	**rate[3]**	**number**	**rate[3]**	**number**	**rate[3]**
Newfoundland and Labrador	18	3.2	23	4.1	41	7.2
Prince Edward Island	3	2.0	6	3.9	9	5.9
Nova Scotia	29	2.8	83	8.1	112	10.9
New Brunswick	35	4.2	44	5.3	79	9.6
Quebec	339	4.1	512	6.1	851	10.2
Ontario	524	3.8	1,046	7.6	1,570	11.4
Manitoba	131	10.1	310	23.8	441	33.9
Saskatchewan	112	10.1	213	19.2	325	29.4
Alberta	245	6.6	434	11.8	679	18.4
British Columbia	236	5.1	491	10.5	727	15.6
Yukon	6	17.1	10	28.5	16	45.5
Northwest Territories	10	21.3	15	31.9	25	53.2
Nunavut	20	60.1	19	57.1	39	117.1
Canada	**1,708**	**4.8**	**3,206**	**9.0**	**4,914**	**13.8**

1. Family homicide refers to homicide committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners), parents, children, siblings, and extended family. Spousal victims include those aged 15 years and older. All other family relationships include victims of all ages.

2. Non-family homicide refers to homicide committed by dating partners, friends, casual acquaintances, business associates, criminal associates, authority figures, and strangers. Includes victims of all ages.

3. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Totals do not match the information presented in Table 1.2 due to the exclusion of unknown relationships and data suppression.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 1.6
Victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by census metropolitan area, 2010

Census metropolitan area (CMA)[1, 2]	Victims of family violence[3]		Victims of non-family violence[4]		Total	
	number	rate[5]	number	rate[5]	number	rate[5]
Saint John	430	420	1,308	1,278	1,738	1,698
Saskatoon	945	351	3,573	1,328	4,518	1,679
Kelowna	613	346	2,348	1,324	2,961	1,669
Abbotsford-Mission	566	325	1,591	913	2,157	1,238
Gatineau[6]	977	320	2,514	823	3,491	1,143
Brantford	418	317	1,408	1,069	1,826	1,386
Regina	688	317	2,709	1,248	3,397	1,565
Montréal	12,083	315	25,074	654	37,157	970
Thunder Bay	369	311	1,582	1,332	1,951	1,643
Saguenay	436	301	1,162	802	1,598	1,103
Québec	2,148	288	4,609	618	6,757	906
Trois-Rivières	427	288	921	621	1,348	909
Edmonton	3,230	275	10,625	906	13,855	1,181
Moncton	348	257	1,363	1,008	1,711	1,265
St. John's	463	250	1,952	1,053	2,415	1,303
Greater Sudbury	404	247	1,302	797	1,706	1,044
Vancouver	5,292	223	24,231	1,019	29,523	1,242
Victoria	786	222	3,471	981	4,257	1,203
Halifax	876	218	4,936	1,231	5,812	1,449
Winnipeg	1,637	211	9,150	1,181	10,787	1,392
Calgary	2,596	209	7,689	619	10,285	827
Toronto[7]	10,409	202	34,272	664	44,681	865
Kingston	314	197	1,198	752	1,512	949
Hamilton[8]	1,003	189	5,627	1,062	6,630	1,252
Barrie	257	186	974	704	1,231	890
London	883	186	3,484	732	4,367	918
Windsor	554	184	2,561	853	3,115	1,037
Sherbrooke[9]	342	184	984	529	1,326	713
Guelph	225	182	800	648	1,025	830
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo	930	179	3,787	728	4,717	907

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 1.6 (continued)
Victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by census metropolitan area, 2010

Census metropolitan area (CMA)[1, 2]	**Victims of family violence**[3]		**Victims of non-family violence**[4]		**Total**	
	number	**rate**[5]	**number**	**rate**[5]	**number**	**rate**[5]
St. Catharines-Niagara	775	176	3,066	696	3,841	873
Peterborough	206	172	764	636	970	808
Ottawa[10]	919	98	5,156	552	6,075	651
CMA Total[11]	**54,228**	**232**	**180,842**	**773**	**235,070**	**1,005**
Non-CMA Total	**44,729**	**436**	**115,440**	**1,126**	**160,169**	**1,562**
Canada	**98,957**	**294**	**296,282**	**881**	**395,239**	**1,175**

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
2. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.
3. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners), parents, children, siblings, and extended family. Spousal victims include those aged 15 to 89 years. All other family relationships include victims aged 0 to 89 years.
4. Non-family violence refers to violence committed by dating partners, friends, casual acquaintances, business associates, criminal associates, authority figures, and strangers. Includes victims aged 0 to 89 years.
5. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
6. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
7. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.
8. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police that polices the CMA of Hamilton.
9. The 2010 data for the Sherbrooke CMA are estimates based on 2009 data due to the unavailability of data in 2010.
10. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
11. Includes Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police, which are responsible for policing more than one CMA. This total also includes the portion of Durham Regional Police that polices the Oshawa CMA. Because of these inclusions, the CMA total will not equal the total of the individual CMAs.

Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Totals do not match the information presented in Table 1.1 due to the exclusion of unknown relationships.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Section 2: Violence against intimate partners

By Maire Sinha

Over the years, the study of intimate partner violence has varied and evolved (Dawson 2001). When research on the issue was first in its infancy, the primary focus was on "wife assault" within the confines of legal marriage or common-law relationships (for example, Rodgers 1994).[12] This conceptualization was restricted to women as victims and fell under the larger umbrella of violence against women. While the analytic focus then shifted in later years to include both sexes, the analysis was generally limited to current and previous marital partners, both in legal marriages and common-law relationships.[13] This definition excluded other forms of intimate partner relationships, namely dating relationships.

In recent years, the possibility of including dating violence as a component of intimate partner violence has been considered by both researchers and provincial, territorial and federal government departments (PEI Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention Administration Committee 2010, Justice Canada 2009). Correspondingly, this edition of *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile* explores an expanded definition of intimate partner violence, which includes both spousal and dating partner violence.

Generally speaking, there are a number of factors that distinguish intimate partner violence from violence against friends, acquaintances or strangers. First, the ongoing relationship, potential economic dependence and emotional attachment of intimate partner victims to their abusers make this type of violence unique (Ogrodnik 2006). Second, the impact of victimization may extend beyond the direct victim, in that intimate partner violence may also involve the safety and well-being of children (Bedi and Goddard 2007). Third, the violence often involves multiple incidents over a period of time, rather than single, isolated events (Ogrodnik 2006; WHO 2002). Together, these particular victim-offender relationship factors, as well as the ongoing nature of the violence, make intimate partner violence a distinct form of violence.

The present analysis aims to further develop the current understanding of these differences through a comparative analysis of intimate partner violence and violence perpetrated by non-intimate partners. The following research questions will be addressed:

- What is the prevalence of intimate partner violence relative to non-intimate partner violence?
- How are the socio-demographic risk factors for intimate partner violence different from other forms of violence?
- Does the severity of incidents of intimate partner violence differ from other types of violence?
- When considering homicides, how do the motivating factors behind intimate partner homicide differ from other homicides?
- Are perpetrators accused of intimate partner violence more likely than other accused to be charged with a violent crime?
- Are trends in intimate partner violence similar to non-intimate partner violence?
- Do regional variations in intimate partner violence mirror those of non-intimate partner violence?

In addition, given the current exploration into a more inclusive definition of family violence, the analysis will also discuss whether there are discernible differences between the two categories of intimate partner violence: spousal and dating violence. It is important to recognize that for the purpose of this publication, dating partner violence, while part of the continuum of intimate partner violence, is not included in the traditional definition of family violence.

For the current analysis, intimate partner violence focuses on the population 15 years of age and older.[14] This population was selected to facilitate comparisons between spousal violence victims and dating violence victims.[15] For non-intimate partner violence, individuals of all ages, from newborns to seniors, are included in

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12. In 1993, Statistics Canada undertook the Violence Against Women Survey, which asked women about their victimization experiences perpetrated by spouses. Analytical reports included Rodgers, K. 1994. "Wife assault: The findings of a national survey." *Juristat*. Vol. 14, no. 9. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
13. Until this year, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile* generally examined violence against spouses. Other types of intimate partner relationships were excluded.
14. Analysis using the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey is based upon victims aged 15 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older have been excluded due to the possible miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
15. Excluded are incidents of dating violence involving victims under 15 years of age. Dating violence victims aged 12 to 14 years account for 1% of the total number of dating partner victims. For more information, see Text box 2.3, "Dating violence against young people aged 12 to 14".

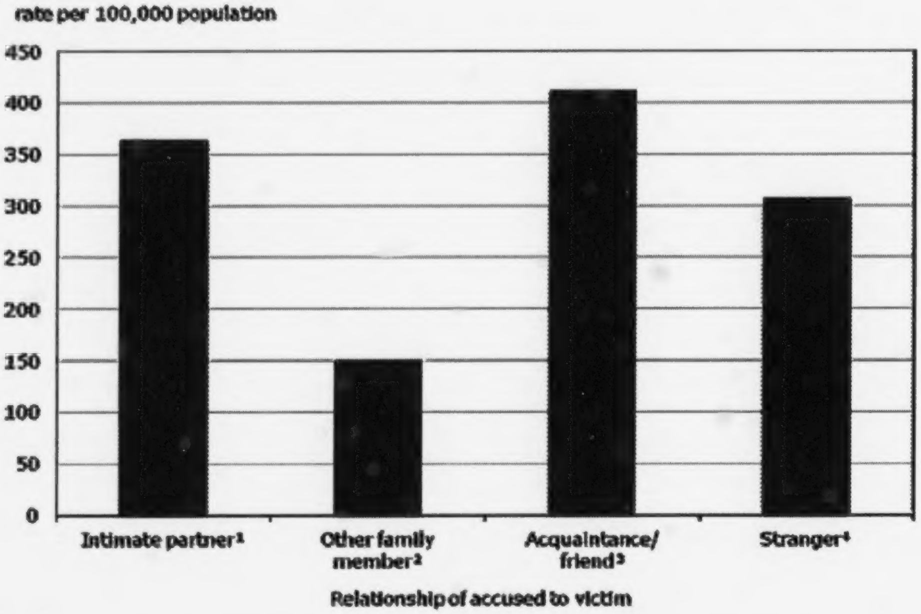
the analysis. The analysis will be primarily based on results from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey and the Homicide Survey, with some discussion of results from the 2009 General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization.[16] It is noteworthy that police-reported data are based upon crimes that have been reported to, and substantiated by police.

Prevalence of intimate partner violence

Rates of intimate partner violence higher than non-spousal family violence

Based on police-reported data, Canadians' risk of intimate partner violence, both spousal and dating partner violence, was higher than non-spousal family violence, as well as violence committed by strangers. In 2010, there were 363 intimate partner victims per 100,000 population, amounting to over 102,500 Canadians who were victimized by their spouse or dating partner (Chart 2.1). This compares to a rate of 150 per 100,000 for non-spousal family violence, and a rate of 307 per 100,000 for stranger violence.

Chart 2.1
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by relationship of accused to the victim, Canada, 2010



1. Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners, dating partners (current and previous) and other intimate partners. The intimate partner category is based upon victims aged 15 to 89.
2. Violence against other family members refers to violence committed by parents, children, siblings, and extended family. Includes victims aged 0 to 89.
3. Violence against acquaintances/friends refers to violence committed by casual acquaintances, business associates, criminal associates, authority figures, and close friends. Includes victims aged 0 to 89.
4. Includes victims aged 0 to 89.

Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

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[16] General Social Survey (GSS) data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded from this analysis. For detailed analysis of self-reported spousal violence, see Brennan 2011.

Intimate partner violence, however, was less prevalent than violence involving acquaintances or friends. In particular, intimate partners were 12% less likely than casual contacts, authority figures, business associates, criminal associates, and close friends to be the victims of violence (363 versus 411 per 100,000) (Table 2.1). This lower prevalence of victimization was true for spousal violence, but was not the case for dating violence. Specifically, spousal violence was 1.5 times lower than the rate involving acquaintances and friends (265 versus 411 per 100,000). In contrast, the rate of dating violence, which was at least 1.6 times higher than the spousal violence rate,[17] also surpassed the rate of violence committed by a friend or acquaintance (436 versus 411 per 100,000).

Text box 2.1
How intimate partner violence is measured

This section includes both spouses and dating partners, in current and former relationships, in the definition of intimate partner violence. Spouses are defined as legally married, separated, divorced, and common-law partners, while dating relationships include current or former boyfriends and girlfriends, as well as "other intimate relationships".[18]

Using the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey and the Homicide Survey, it is possible to examine incidents of violence perpetrated against spouses and dating partners by identifying the relationship between the victim and the accused. However, one challenge in measuring the relative prevalence of spousal and dating partner violence is the calculation of rates.

Rates are calculated by dividing the number of occurrences of a particular type of incident by the population at risk of that type of incident. To accurately calculate rates, it is necessary to first determine the population that best reflects the population at-risk. For spousal violence, data on the at-risk population are available and include those legally married, separated, divorced and in a common-law relationship. One limitation is the absence of population data for those individuals who were in a previous common-law relationship.

For dating violence, the population at-risk would be those who are currently dating or in a former dating relationship. No estimate of the population currently exists for this group (i.e., number of current and former dating partners). The best approximation of the at-risk population would be all persons who are currently unmarried, including single, separated, divorced and widowed persons.[19] While a proportion of this population could have engaged in a dating relationship, the exact proportion or number of dating partners is unknown. Consequently, the population of unmarried population would be greater than a true dating population.

Calculating a dating violence rate using the total unmarried population therefore underestimates the actual prevalence of dating violence, since the number of incidents of dating violence is being divided by a population that is larger than the true dating population. In other words, the rate of dating violence would be higher if the rate was calculated based on the actual population of dating partners. For this reason, any comparison of rates of spousal violence and dating partner violence should be made with caution.

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17. The higher risk of dating violence is despite the fact that the rate of dating violence is underestimated. Underestimation is a result of the inflated size of population used in the calculation of dating violence rates. That is, the calculation of a dating violence rate uses the entire population of unmarried persons, regardless of their dating relationship status. For more information, see Text box 2.1, "How intimate partner violence is measured".
18. 'Other intimate relationships' are defined in the Incident-based UCR Survey as "a person with whom the victim had a sexual relationship or a mutual sexual attraction but to which none of the other relationship options apply".
19. Population data on separated individuals became available in 2007. As a result, analysis of homicide data, which relies on 10 years of data, excludes separated individuals from the unmarried population.

Text box 2.2
Definitions of intimate partner violence and non-intimate partner violence

Intimate partner violence

Intimate partner victims: Includes legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners (current and previous), dating partners (current and previous) and other intimate partners. The intimate partner category is based on victims aged 15 years and older.
Spousal victims: Includes legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners (current and previous). The spousal category is based on victims aged 15 years and older.
Dating partner victims: Includes boyfriends/girlfriends (current and previous) and other intimate partners (whom the victim had a sexual relationship or mutual sexual attraction but were not considered to be a boyfriend/girlfriend). Unless otherwise indicated, the dating partner category is based on victims aged 15 years and older.

Non-intimate partner violence

Victims of non-intimate partner violence: Includes non-spousal family relationships (parents, children, siblings, and extended family), friends/acquaintances (casual acquaintance, business relationship, close friends, criminal relationship, authority figure), and strangers. Includes victims of all ages.

Risk factors for intimate partner violence, compared to non-intimate partner violence

As with all forms of violence, the risk of being a victim of intimate partner violence is not equally dispersed across all segments of Canadian society. That is, a range of risk factors, such as sex, age and marital status, have been closely associated with intimate partner violence (WHO 2002; Brennan 2011). While some of these factors may be similar to those for violence committed by non-intimate partners, others are unique to intimate partner violence.

Women at higher risk than men of intimate partner violence

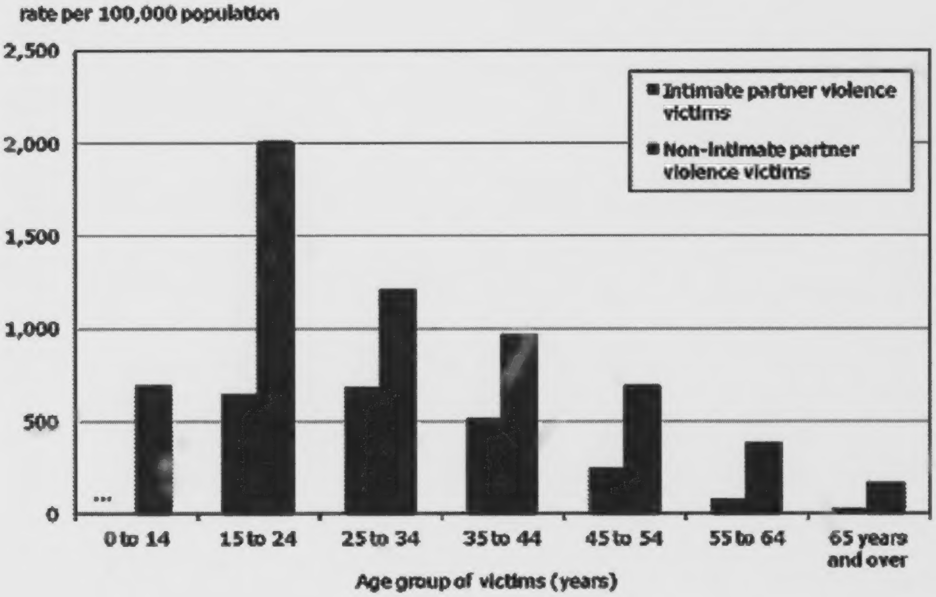
Police-reported data show that gender plays a role in the risk of intimate partner violence and non-intimate partner violence, albeit in different ways. In 2010, women were more vulnerable than men to intimate partner violence, with a rate of intimate partner violence nearly four times higher than that for men (574 per 100,000 versus 147 per 100,000) (Table 2.1). This elevated risk for women was the case for both spousal and dating partner relationships.

The gender difference in rates was less pronounced for non-intimate partner violence. Boys and men were 41% more likely than girls and women to be a victim of non-intimate partner violence. This increased risk was evident for most types of non-intimate partner relationships, with two notable exceptions. First, close friends were about equally likely to commit a violent crime against males and females (49 and 47 per 100,000). Second, other family members, such as parents, were more likely to direct the violence towards females than males (175 per 100,000 versus 124 per 100,000).

Intimate partner victims slightly older than victims of non-intimate violence

Rates of intimate partner violence peak at later ages, compared to rates of non-intimate partner violence. In 2010, men and women aged 25 to 34 years had the highest risk of intimate partner violence, followed closely by those aged 15 to 24 years. This differs from non-intimate partner violence, where rates peaked at age 15 to 24 years (Chart 2.2). For both intimate partner violence and non-intimate partner violence, rates generally declined with increasing age (Chart 2.3).

Chart 2.2
Victims of police-reported intimate and non-intimate partner violence, by age group of victim, Canada, 2010



... not applicable
Note: Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners, dating partners (current and previous) and other intimate partners. The intimate partner category is based upon victims aged 15 to 89. Non-intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by other family members (parent, child, sibling, and extended family), friends, acquaintances, business relationships, criminal relationships, authority figures, and strangers. The non-intimate partner category is based on victims aged 0 to 89. For both intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence, rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

There are discernible variations in the most at-risk age groups for spousal and dating violence. Whereas spouses were most vulnerable to violence, including being killed, in early adulthood (15 to 24 years old) (Table 2.2, Chart 2.3), individuals were most at risk of dating violence in their late 20s to early 30s (Table 2.3).[20] The pattern in age-specific rates of dating violence was primarily driven by rates for female victims, as the male rate peaked at a later age, between 35 and 44 years.

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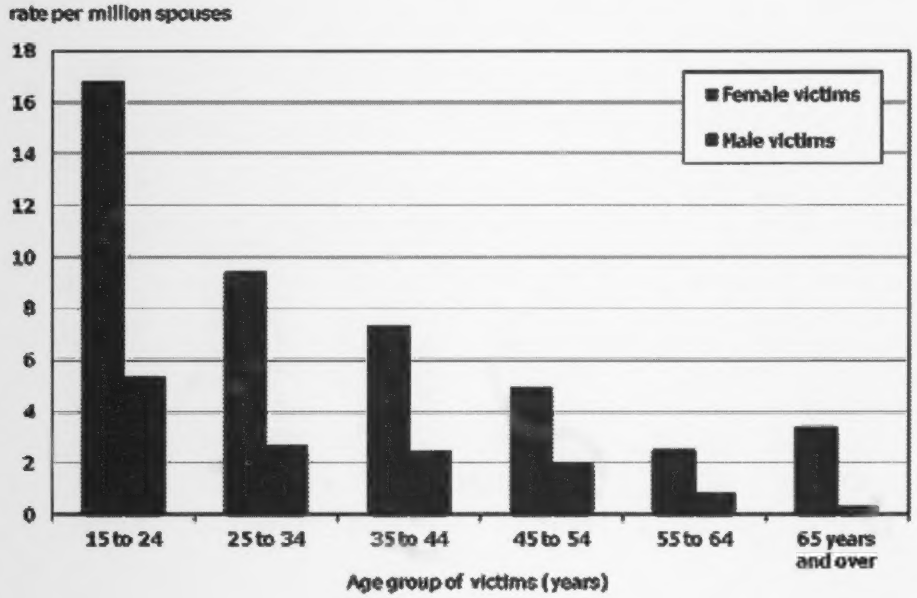
[20] Previous research has indicated that with rate calculation of dating violence using the unmarried population is influenced by age-specific trends in marital unions (Hotton Mahony 2010). That is, the younger population is less likely than the older population to be married, as older adults are more likely to enter legal marriages or common-law relationships. As a result, the size of the unmarried persons is higher for younger adults than for older adults.

Chart 2.3
Victims of spousal homicide, by age group and sex of the victim, Canada, 2000 to 2010

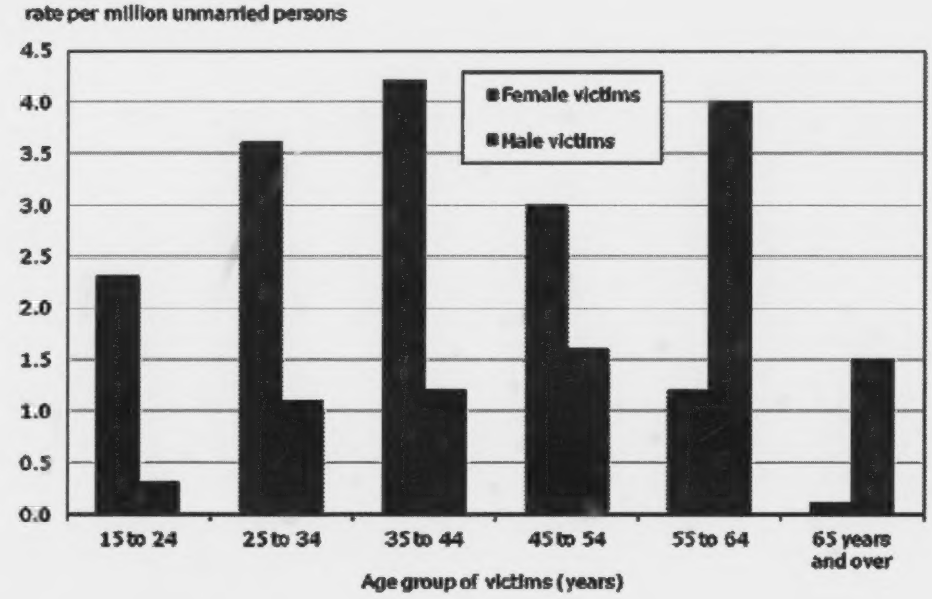


Note: Spousal homicide refers to homicide committed by legally married, separated, divorced, and common-law partners. Excludes homicides where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

For nearly every age group, women had higher rates of both spousal and dating violence. However, this finding was not consistently evident for dating violence in older years. Between the ages of 55 and 64 years, the male rate of dating violence was virtually equal to the female rate. By age 65, the male rate of dating violence surpassed the female rate (18 per 100,000 versus 9 per 100,000).

This shift in gendered risk was also evident when the violence ended in the death of the dating partner victim. Starting at age 55 years, men's risk of being killed by their dating partner was higher than women's risk of dating homicide, according to homicide data over the past decade (Chart 2.4).

Chart 2.4
Victims of dating partner homicide, by age group and sex of the victim, Canada, 2000 to 2010



Note: Dating partner homicide refers to homicide committed by boyfriends/girlfriends (current or previous) and other intimate partners. The rate of dating homicide is an underestimation given that the population of unmarried persons (single, divorced and widowed) includes both persons who have engaged in a dating relationship and those who have not recently engaged in a dating relationship (see Text box 2.1). For this chart, the separated population has been excluded from the unmarried population. This is because prior to 2007, the separated population was combined with the legally married population. As a result, the population used for the calculation of dating homicide rates differs from the population used to calculate 2010 rates of dating violence. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Excludes homicides where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Text box 2.3
Dating violence against young people aged 12 to 14

Dating relationships can start at a young age and, accordingly, so too can the risk of dating violence. Based on data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth,[21] 71% of adolescents aged 15 years and older had a current or previous dating relationship. Of these, over half (55%) had their first dating relationship by the age of 12.

According to police-reported data, young people aged 12 to 14 years represented about 1% of all dating partner violence in 2010. At a rate of 56 victims per 100,000 population, these youth were less likely than most other age groups to be become a victim of dating violence. Similar to dating violence against individuals aged 15 years and older, girls aged 12 to 14 were more often identified as the victims of dating violence than boys. In 2010, 93% of all victims of dating violence aged 12 to 14 were female.

Consistent with previous findings (Hotton Mahony 2010), the types of offences perpetrated against young dating violence victims differ from older victims of dating violence. Over half (52%) of victims between the ages of 12 to 14 were sexually assaulted by their dating partner, while the same was true for 3% of victims aged 15 years and older. The other most frequently occurring offences were similar to older victims, including common assault (23%) and uttering threats (12%).

Regardless of offence, injury was less prevalent in dating violence victims between 12 and 14 years of age. Less than one-quarter (22%) of young dating violence victims sustained injuries, compared to 51% of victims aged 15 years and older. Furthermore, unlike dating violence involving older victims, the majority of incidents involving young people aged 12 to 14 years did not result in formal charges. In particular, 45% of all incidents resulted in a charge laid or recommended, compared to 67% of incidents involving older victims.[22] The lower levels of charging relative to older victims of dating violence held true for most offences, including sexual assault, physical assault, criminal harassment, and uttering threats.

Over half of spousal homicide victims had a reported history of domestic violence

The Homicide Survey captures information on whether there was a history or pattern of family violence involving the accused and victim.[23] Over the past decade, more than half (65%) of all accused spouses had a history of family violence involving the victim. This was most often the case when the spousal victim was estranged from their partner, including those divorced or separated from a legal marriage or common-law relationship. Specifically, for over two-thirds (72%) of those accused of killing their estranged partner,[24] police reported previous family violence. This compares to 62% of those accused of killing their current spouse, including legally married or common-law partners.

Childhood victimization more prevalent among spousal violence victims

Experiencing violence as a child has been found to be closely linked to being a victim or offender of intimate partner violence (CDC 2011; WHO 2002). For the first time, the 2009 General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization asked all victims of violent crime about their victimization experiences before the age of 15 years. Results from this household survey[25,26]of Canadians show that among victims of violent crime, spousal victims[27] were more likely than other victims to report that they were first victimized as a child. Almost half (48%) of spousal victims were physically assaulted before the age of 15, compared to 30% of victims of non-spousal physical assault. As well, three-quarters (75%) of spousal victims were first sexually victimized as a child. This compares to 57% of victims of non-spousal sexual assault. No gender difference existed in the prevalence of childhood victimization among victims of spousal violence.

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[21] Data are based on the 1998/1999 cycle of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth. More recent data are not available at the national level.

[22] Excludes Montreal due to the unavailability of clearance data in 2010.

[23] Analysis is based on spousal violence victims, including legally married, current common-law, legally separated, separated common-law, and divorced partners. Information on history of violence involving dating partners is not available from the Homicide Survey.

[24] Analysis is based on only those homicides with a single accused.

[25] Data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded.

[26] Unless otherwise noted, differences are statistically significant at $p < 0.05$.

[27] Spousal violence refers to current and former legally married and common-law partners. Dating partners are not included.

Severity of intimate partner, compared to non-intimate partner violence

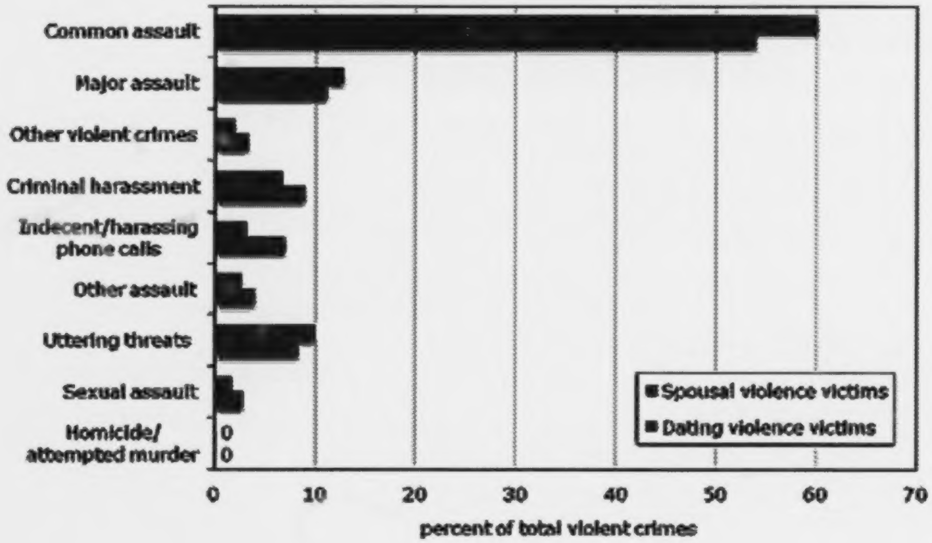
Traditional indicators of the severity of violent crime include the type of offence, the level of injury sustained by the victim and the type of weapon used. Severity can also be measured based on the harm beyond the primary victim. For example, in some cases of violence, particularly intimate partner violence, there is the possibility of harm to pregnancy outcomes, as well as to children of the victim or offender. This section compares indicators of severity for both violence against intimate partners and violence directed at non-intimate partner victims.

Physical assault accounts for the majority of intimate partner violence

Intimate partner violence is often characterized by physical assaults against the victim, more so than non-intimate partner violence. In 2010, 7 in 10 (72%) victims of intimate partner violence were physically assaulted, compared to just over half of other victims (57%) (Table 2.4). The majority of these assaults were identified as level 1, the least serious form of assault. While a similar proportion of intimate partner violence and non-intimate partner violence involved indecent and harassing phone calls (5% and 4%), a greater share of intimate partner violence involved criminal harassment (8% and 4%). In contrast, sexual assaults, robberies, uttering threats were more likely in incidents of non-intimate partner violence.

Among incidents of intimate partner violence, the type of offences varied based on the type of intimate partner relationship (spousal or dating relationship) and whether the victim was in a current or past relationship with the accused. Spousal violence was more likely than dating violence to involve the physical assault of the victim. For example, common assault accounted for 60% of all spousal violence incidents in 2010, compared to 54% of dating violence incidents (Chart 2.5). Dating violence more often involved intimidation offences, including criminal harassment, indecent and harassing phone calls and uttering threats (24% versus 12%). It has been suggested that the lower share of physical assaults and higher proportion of criminal harassments among victims of dating violence may be an outcome of the separate living arrangements of the accused and victim (Hotton Mahony 2010).

Chart 2.5
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by type of intimate partner relationship and type of offence, Canada, 2010



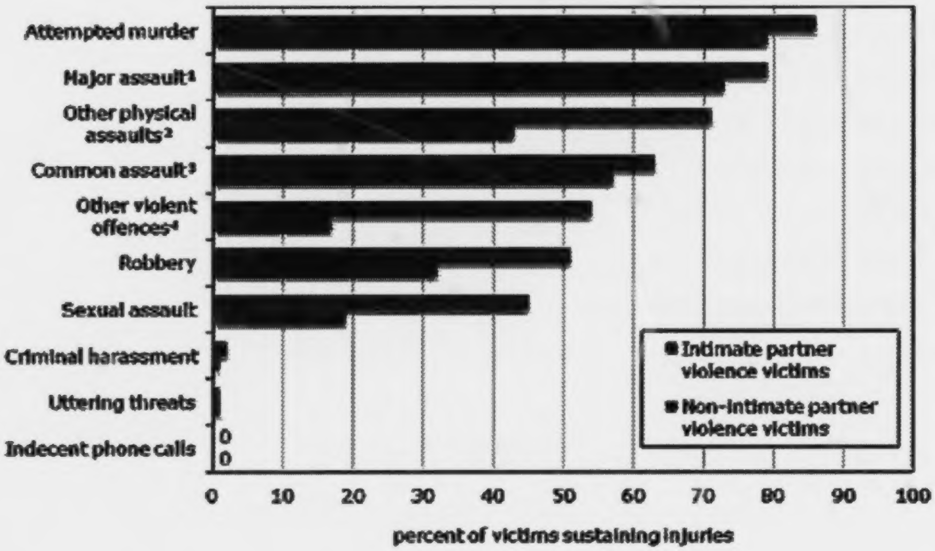
Note: Spousal violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, and common-law partners. Dating partner violence refers to violence committed by boyfriends/girlfriends (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Along the same lines, a higher proportion of physical assaults were in current relationships than in previous ones (88% versus 45% of victims). Violent incidents against previous partners more often involved intimidation offences, including criminal harassment, indecent or harassing phone calls, and uttering threats offences (50% of all incidents).

Victims of intimate partner violence more likely than other victims to suffer injuries

It has been consistently found that intimate partner violence can result in both emotional and physical harm to victims (CDC 2011; Brennan 2011). Using 2010 police-reported data, it is possible to ascertain if the immediate physical impacts of violent crime are greater among intimate partner victims than other victims. Generally speaking, victims of intimate partner violence were more likely than other victims to sustain injuries (51% versus 39%). This was true regardless of the type of offence. For example, 63% of intimate partner victims of common assault suffered injuries, compared to 57% of other assault victims (Chart 2.6). Some of the largest differences in the prevalence of injury were found for sexual assault offences, other physical assaults, and other violent offences.

Chart 2.6
Victims of police-reported intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence, by type of offence and incidence of injury, Canada, 2010



1. Major assault includes levels 2 and 3 assault. Level 2 assault is defined as assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and level 3 assault is defined as assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.
2. Other physical assaults include unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge firearm with intent, assault against peace-public officer, and other assaults.
3. Common assault refers to level 1 assaults. Level 1 assault is the least serious form of assault and includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats.
4. Other violent offences includes abduction, kidnapping, hostage-taking, arson and other violent violations.

Note: Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners, dating partners (current and previous) and other intimate partners. The intimate partner category is based upon victims aged 15 to 89. Non-intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by other family members (parents, children, siblings, extended family members), friends, casual acquaintances, neighbours, authority figures, criminal relationships, business relationships and strangers. The non-intimate partner category is based upon victims aged 0 to 89. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Not all intimate partner victims had the same risk of suffering physical injury. While spousal and dating partner victims were equally as likely to sustain physical injury (51% each), the likelihood of injury varied depending on whether the relationship was ongoing or had ended. In particular, the majority of victims in a current spousal or dating relationship suffered some type of physical injury (61% and 66%). In contrast, less than one-third of estranged partners were injured, including 28% of previous spouses and 30% of former dating partners.

The higher prevalence of injury among current intimate partners was evident for all forms of physical assault, as well as criminal harassment and other violent offences. These findings may be partly explained by the victim's current and ongoing relationship with the accused and their corresponding reluctance and fear to contact police until the violence becomes severe (Mihorean 2006). Among intimate partner violence, there was virtually no difference in the incidence of injury by gender.

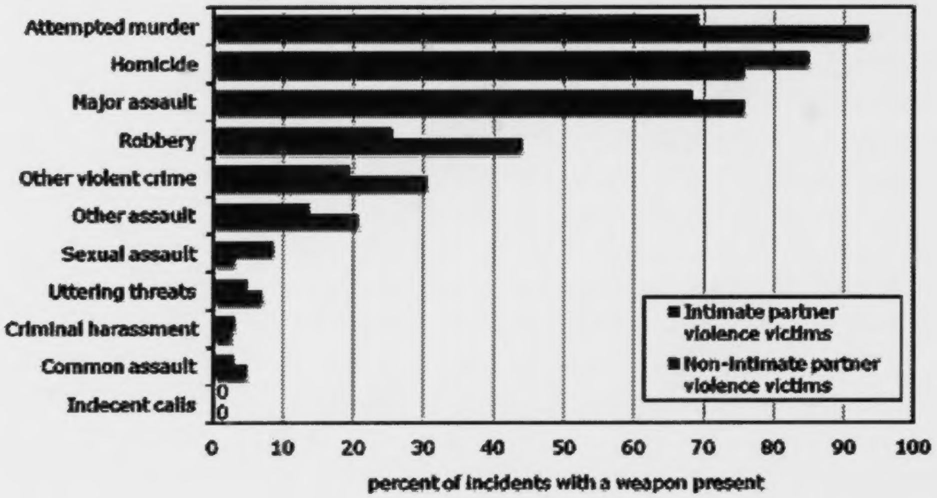
Physical force used more often than weapons against victims of intimate partner violence

While physical force, rather than weapons, was more often used to cause or threaten injury to victims of violent crime, physical force was more frequently reported in incidents against intimate partners than non-intimate partner victims (68% versus 57%) (Table 2.5). This was true for nearly all offences, with the exception of homicides and uttering threats. For these violent crimes, physical force was more common in incidents of non-intimate partner violence than intimate partner violence.

Physical force was used to the same degree in spousal and dating violence incidents. In 2010, 70% of spousal violence perpetrators used their own body strength with the intent to cause bodily injury or death, while the same was true for 66% of dating violence incidents. This similarity in use of physical force persists even when examining specific types of offences.

The involvement of weapons, such as firearms or knives, to commit violence was also similar between spouses and dating partners but varied between incidents of intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence. In 2010, 20% of incidents of non-intimate partner violence involved the use of a weapon, compared to 12% of intimate partner violence. Diverging from the increased use of weapons among incidents of non-intimate partner violence were homicides and sexual assaults (Chart 2.7). For these violent crimes, intimate partners were more likely than other perpetrators to use a weapon against the victim.

Chart 2.7
Victims of police-reported intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence, by type of offence and presence of weapon, Canada, 2010



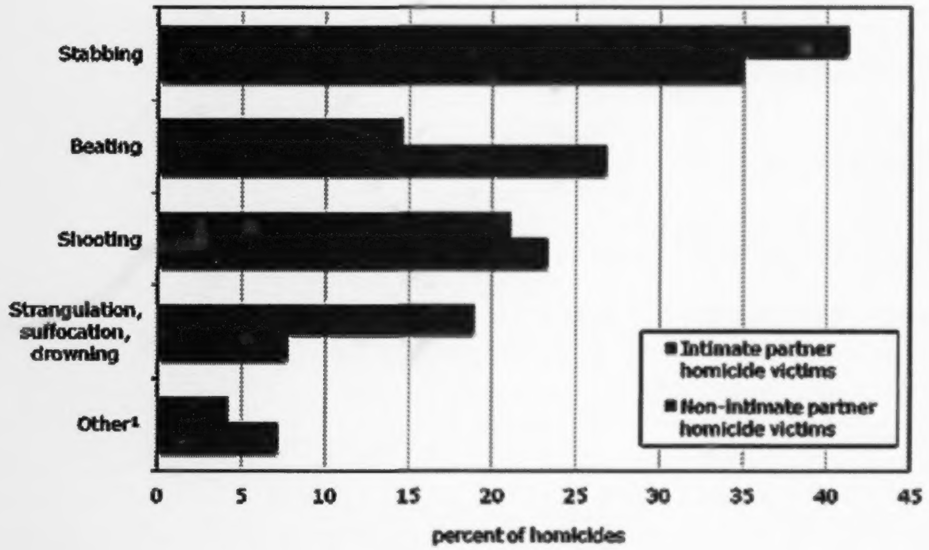
Note: Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners, dating partners (current and previous) and other intimate partners. The intimate partner category is based upon victims aged 15 to 89. Non-intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by other family members (parents, children, siblings, extended family members), friends, casual acquaintances, neighbours, authority figures, criminal relationships, business relationships, strangers and others. The non-intimate partner category is based upon victims aged 0 to 89. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Presence of weapon does not include the use of physical force.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Intimate partners also differ from other perpetrators in the types of weapon that they use against victims. More specifically, they were less likely than other accused persons to use firearms (5% versus 14% of all weapons present). Knives, as well as clubs or other blunt instruments were used to the same degree by intimate partners and other accused. Virtually no difference existed in the type of weapon present in spousal and dating partner violence incidents.

While those accused of non-intimate partner violence were more likely than intimate partners to use a firearm, this was not the case when the violence ended with the death of the victim. That is, firearms caused the death in almost an equal percentage of intimate partner and non-intimate partner homicides (21% and 23%) (Chart 2.8). Furthermore, stabbings, or the use of knives or other cutting instruments, were the cause of death in a greater proportion of intimate partner homicides than non-intimate partner homicides (41% versus 35%). This is despite the similarities in the use of knives to commit violence in general.

Chart 2.8

Victims of intimate and non-intimate partner homicide, by cause of death, Canada, 2000 to 2010



1. Other can include poisoning, smoke inhalation, and exposure.

Note: Intimate partner homicide refers to homicide committed by legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners, dating partners (current and previous) and other intimate partners. The intimate partner category is based upon victims aged 15 years and older. Non-intimate partner homicide refers to homicide committed by other family members (parents, children, siblings, extended family members), friends, casual acquaintances, neighbours, authority figures, criminal relationships, business relationships, strangers and others. The non-intimate partner category is based upon victims aged 0 years and older. Excludes homicides where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Perpetrators of intimate partner violence also cause harm to others

Related to intimate partner violence is the possible impact on pregnancy outcomes to the victim, as well as consequences on children or other family members who may be harmed by the same perpetrator. It has been found that violence during pregnancy can have a myriad of adverse effects on not only maternal health but also on birth outcomes, such as low birth weight, fetal injury and fetal death (Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada 2005). For the first time, the 2009 GSS asked spousal victims if the violent episode took place at the time of pregnancy. According to these results, 11% of female spousal victims were pregnant during the violent incident. This amounts to about 63,300 pregnant women who were violently victimized by their spouse in the preceding five years.

Police-reported data from the Homicide Survey also show that pregnancy is not a protective factor in intimate partner homicide.[28] Since 2005, the year data first became available on whether the homicide victim was pregnant, 12 intimate partner victims were pregnant at the time of their death. However, homicide during pregnancy is not limited to intimate partners, as eight pregnant women were killed by someone other than their intimate partner.

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[28] Data on violence at the time of pregnancy is not captured by the Incident-based UCR Survey.

The GSS provides some information on the effects of spousal violence[29] on other family members. In 2009, 9% of spousal violence victims reported that their abuser had also physically or sexually abused someone else in their family. This was more often the case when the spousal violence victim was female (11%^{E} versus 6%^{E} of men) or was estranged from their partner (14% versus 3%^{E} of current spouses).

Further, children were sometimes victimized during a violent episode against a spouse. In 2009, 5%^{E} of spousal violence victims indicated that their children were harmed during the violent episode. More commonly, children heard or saw their mother or father being assaulted, with 52% of spousal violence victims indicating that their children witnessed a violent episode in the preceding five years.[30] For more information on children witnessing spousal violence, see section 3 on family violence against children and youth.

Motives in intimate partner homicides, compared to non-intimate partner homicides

Women more likely than men to be killed because of their partner's jealousy

Based on homicide data over the previous decade, it is possible to examine the underlying motives in homicides. These results show that the motives differ somewhat between the perpetrators of intimate partner homicides and those of homicides not involving intimate partners.

While the escalation of an argument was the most common motive in both types of homicides (40% and 37%), jealousy was more often a factor in intimate partner homicides, regardless of whether the victim was a spouse or dating partner (Chart 2.9). Nearly one-quarter (24%) of female intimate partners and 10% of male intimate partners were killed because of their partner's jealousy. This compares to 4% of female victims and 5% of male victims of other types of homicides.

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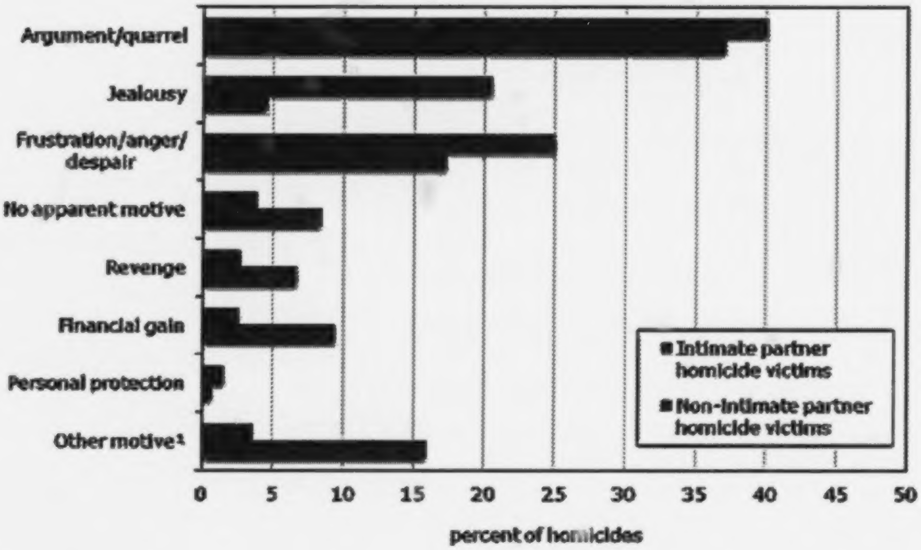
[29] The GSS on Victimization contains a module which asks respondents about their experiences of spousal victimization. Excluded are victims of dating partner violence. Data from Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut are excluded.

[30] Includes only spousal violence victims with one or more children. It also excludes a small number of incidents where the victim reported they were a victim of both current and previous spousal violence. Data from Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut are excluded.

Chart 2.9
Victims of intimate partner and non-intimate partner homicide, by motive, Canada, 2000 to 2010



1. Other motives include mercy killing/assisted suicide, settling of accounts, concealment, hate crime, sexual violence, fear of apprehension and other motives.

Note: Intimate partner homicide refers to homicide committed by legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners, dating partners (current and previous) and other intimate partners. The intimate partner category is based upon victims aged 15 years and older. Non-intimate partner homicide refers to homicide committed by other family members (parents, children, siblings, extended family members), friends, casual acquaintances, neighbours, authority figures, criminal relationships, business relationships, strangers and others. The non-intimate partner category is based upon victims aged 0 years and older. Excludes homicides where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Another common motivating factor in both intimate partner homicides and other homicides was frustration, anger or despair, though it was more prominent in intimate partner homicides (25% versus 17% of non-intimate partner homicides). Those accused of non-intimate partner homicides were more likely to kill for financial gain (9%) or revenge (7%). In general, there are more similarities than differences in the motives underlying spousal and dating homicides. That said, accused spouses were slightly more likely than accused dating partners to kill out of frustration and anger (26% versus 22%).

Male homicide victims more likely than female victims to be the first to use or threaten to use violence

In some homicides over the previous decade, the victim was the first to use or threaten to use violence.[31] According to police investigation, this was more often the case in homicides not involving an intimate partner, as 17% of victims initiated the violent incidents that resulted in their death, compared to 12% of intimate partner victims. For both intimate partner homicides and other homicides, male victims were far more likely than female victims to be the first to use or threaten force. For example, 33% of male intimate partner victims initiated the violence, as opposed to 6% of female victims. Among intimate partner victims, spousal victims were more likely than dating partner victims to be the first to use or threaten violence (14% versus 8%).

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[31] Information is based on homicides where the details of the interactions between the accused and the victim were known. This represents 56% of intimate partner homicides and 71% of non-intimate partner homicides.

Clearance rates for intimate partner violence and non-intimate partner violence

Formal charges more common in intimate partner violence than other types of violence

Contacting the police is a personal decision and one that often involves the consideration of personal safety and seeking protection (Brennan 2011; Perreault and Brennan 2010). Once police are contacted, charges were more often laid or recommended in incidents of intimate partner violence (68%) than other types of violence (38%).[32] This may be related to the finding that intimate partner violence tends to be more severe, as evidenced by the higher frequency of injury and use of physical force. It may also be a consequence of pro-charging policies[33] in cases of domestic violence, which were first initiated in the 1980s (Garner and Maxwell 2009).

In 2010, incidents of non-intimate partner violence were more often than intimate partner violence cleared by means other than the laying of a charge (29% versus 19%). The most common reasons not to lay a charge included the complainant declined to lay charges (accounting for 15% and 9% of non-intimate partner and intimate partner violence incidents) and the use of departmental discretion (accounting for 10% and 5% of non-intimate partner and intimate partner violence incidents).

For intimate partner violence incidents, variations in clearance rates also emerge based on the sex of the victim. In particular, charges were more prevalent in intimate partner violence incidents against women (71%) than those against men (57%). There was virtually no difference in the proportion of spousal and dating violence incidents resulting in charges being laid or recommended (70% versus 67%) (Table 2.6).

Trends and regional patterns in intimate partner violence, compared to non-intimate partner violence

Intimate partner homicide continues downward trend

Monitoring changes in the level of intimate partner violence is important to the development and evaluation of policies and programs designed to prevent or address intimate partner violence. Annual changes in police-reported data can reflect both actual changes in the incidence of intimate partner violence and changes in the willingness of victims to report the violence to police. Data from the GSS show a decrease in the proportion of spousal violence that came to the attention of police, from 28% in 2004 to 22% in 2009 (Brennan 2011). Issues of reporting are less prominent in homicide incidents, and consequently, changes in homicides can be considered a strong barometer of trends in intimate partner violence (Nivette 2011; Gannon et al. 2005).

Consistent with trends in homicides overall, rates of homicide against intimate partners have been generally declining over the past twenty years. Rates in 2010 were over half those recorded in 1991 and 20% lower than ten years ago. The decrease was evident for homicides against both spouses and dating partners. The magnitude of the decline in rates of intimate partner homicide was greater than drops seen for homicides against non-spousal family members, friends, acquaintances, and strangers.

This downward trend in intimate partner homicides has been largely driven by considerable decreases in intimate partner homicides against women (Chart 2.10). Over the last twenty years, the female rate of intimate partner homicides, which accounts for the majority of all intimate partner homicides, dropped from 10.5 per million in 1991 to 4.4 per million in 2010. The rate against men has fluctuated over time, but generally dropped by 30%.

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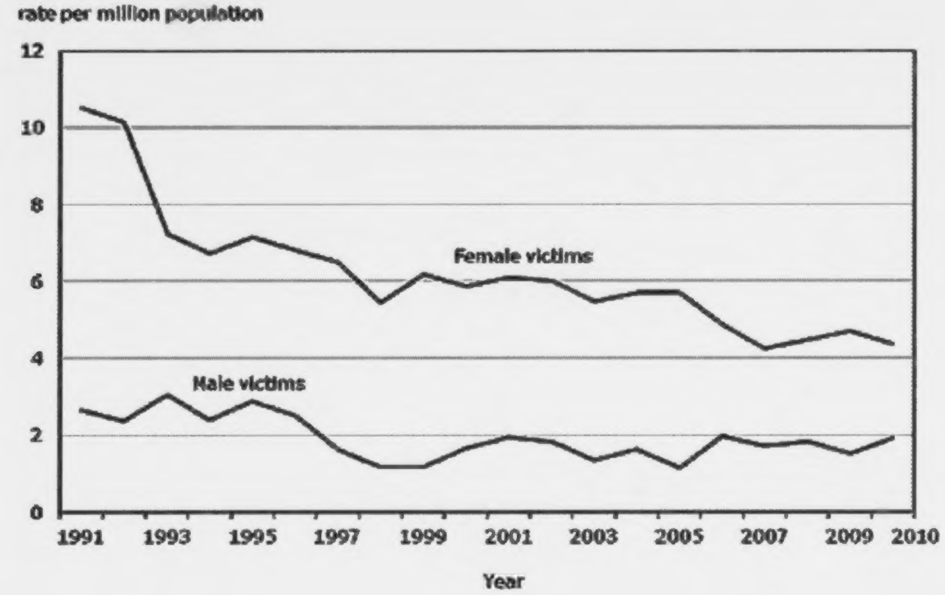
[32] Excludes Montreal due to the unavailability of clearance data.

[33] Pro-charging policies compel charges be laid where the evidence is sufficient to establish that there has been an incident of spousal violence, regardless of the victim's wishes. This removes the responsibility for the decision to charge from the victim and onto the police and Crown counsel.

Chart 2.10
Victims of intimate partner homicide, by sex of the victim, 1991 to 2010



Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 population. Population based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Intimate partners include legally married, separated, divorced, common-law, and dating partners (current and previous). A small number of homicides of dating partners under 15 years of age were excluded in rate calculations. Data on homicides between dating partners are not available prior to 1991. The Homicide Survey was revised and expanded in 1991 in an effort to respond to changing information needs. Excludes homicides where the age and/or sex of the victim was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Trends in spousal homicide reflect the general decline in intimate partner homicides. In particular, the spousal homicide rate has been generally declining over the past two decades, with rates 53% lower than twenty years ago and 17% lower than in 2000 (Table 2.7). That said, the overall spousal homicide rates remained stable in 2010 for the fourth consecutive year. Despite annual fluctuations, rates of dating homicide are also lower than in the past, similar to the drops in rates of spousal homicide (Table 2.8).

Prairie provinces report the highest rates of intimate partner violence

Geographically, the rates of intimate partner violence tend to mirror those for violent crime in general. For instance, in 2010, Canada's territories had police-reported rates of intimate partner violence that were substantially higher than those reported in the provinces, with rates at least three times higher than the national average. At the provincial level, Manitoba and Saskatchewan recorded the highest overall rates of intimate partner violence, including intimate partner homicides (Table 2.9; Table 2.10). This was true for both male and female victims. Saskatchewan, however, was the only province to report a higher rate of male intimate partner homicides compared to female intimate partner homicides. Ontario, Quebec and Prince Edward Island recorded the lowest rates of intimate partner violence.

Thunder Bay records the highest levels of intimate partner violence

For the first time, it is possible to examine variations in intimate partner violence by census metropolitan area (CMA) (Table 2.11).[34,35] Generally speaking, CMAs had lower rates of intimate partner violence than non-CMA areas, which includes small cities, towns, and rural areas. On average, there were 294 intimate partner victims per 100,000 population in CMAs, compared to a rate of 542 victims per 100,000 population in non-CMAs.

In 2010, all CMAs in the provinces of Quebec and Alberta had rates below the national average of 363 victims per 100,000 population. The lowest rate of intimate partner violence in the country, however, was recorded by Ottawa, followed by Sherbrooke, Barrie and Saguenay. Thunder Bay recorded the highest rate of intimate partner violence. Regina and Saskatoon contributed to Saskatchewan's high rate of intimate partner violence with the second and fifth highest CMA rates.

There were some regional similarities between intimate partner violence and non-intimate partner violence. Although variations exist in the exact ranking of CMAs from those with the highest to lowest rates, the same CMAs had the highest rates of violence, regardless of whether the violence was perpetrated by an intimate partner or another type of offender.

Summary

Intimate partner violence is more common than non-spousal family violence, as well as stranger violence. Violence perpetrated against intimate partners also differs from other forms of violent crime, as victims were more often women. Intimate partner victims were also more likely than other victims of violent crime to be first victimized when they were a child.

The severity of police-reported violence was heightened when the victim was an intimate partner. Victims of intimate partner violence were more frequently physically assaulted than victims of non-intimate partner violence. They were also more often injured as a result of the violence compared to victims of non-intimate partner violence. These factors, along with pro-charging policies, may partly explain the higher rate of criminal charges laid or recommended against an accused intimate partner compared to other types of violent offenders.

Notwithstanding these differences, trends and regional variations in intimate partner violence generally reflect patterns in non-intimate partner violence. For instance, rates of both intimate partner and non-intimate partner homicides have dropped over the previous twenty years. At the regional level, both rates of intimate partner violence and non-intimate partner violence were highest in the territories, followed by the prairie provinces.

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[34] It is not possible to examine census metropolitan area (CMA) rates of spousal and dating violence, since population data for spouses and unmarried persons are not available at the CMA level.

[35] A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.

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Detailed data tables

Table 2.1
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by relationship of accused to victim and sex of victim, Canada, 2010

	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
Accused-victim relationship	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**	**rate[1]**
Intimate partner	82,168	574	20,545	147	102,713	363
Spouse[2]	39,297	422	9,359	104	48,656	265
Dating partner[3]	42,871	672	11,186	186	54,057	436
Non-intimate partner	121,609	719	170,151	1,017	291,760	867
Other family member[4]	29,518	175	20,783	124	50,301	150
Friend/acquaintance	59,526	352	78,725	471	138,251	411
Casual acquaintance	41,935	248	54,349	325	96,284	286
Business relationship	6,654	39	10,755	64	17,409	52
Close friend	7,998	47	8,250	49	16,248	48
Criminal relationship	414	2	1,991	12	2,405	7
Authority figure	2,525	15	3,380	20	5,905	18
Stranger	32,565	193	70,643	422	103,208	307
Total	**203,777**	...	**190,696**	...	**394,473**	...

... not applicable

1. For intimate partner violence, rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 15 to 89 years. For non-intimate partner violence, rates are calculated on the basis of population aged 0 to 89 years. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

2. Spousal violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, and common-law partners (current and previous). The spousal category is based upon victims aged 15 to 89.

3. Dating partner violence refers to violence committed by boyfriends/girlfriends (current and previous) and other intimate partners. The dating partner category is based upon victims aged 15 to 89.

4. Other family member includes parents, children, siblings, and extended family.

Note: Caution should be used when comparing rates of spousal and dating partner violence as the rate of dating violence is underestimated. As described in Text box 2.1, the calculation of dating partner rates is based on the population of unmarried persons (single, separated, divorced and widowed), including both persons who have engaged in a dating relationship and those who have never engaged in a dating relationship. This leads to an underestimation of the true extent of dating violence. In contrast, the spousal violence rate is calculated using the true population at-risk of spousal violence, namely the spousal population. Therefore, the rate of spousal violence is a more accurate reflection of the prevalence of spousal violence. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.2
Victims of police-reported spousal violence, by age group and sex of victim, Canada, 2010

	Female victims		Male victims		Total spousal victims	
Age groups	**number**	**rate**	**number**	**rate**	**number**	**rate**
15 to 24 years	7,040	2,285	882	547	7,922	1,688
25 to 34 years	12,891	868	2,601	222	15,492	583
35 to 44 years	11,447	588	2,968	165	14,415	385
45 to 54 years	5,820	249	2,056	90	7,876	170
55 to 64 years	1,548	84	651	35	2,199	59
65 years and over	551	39	201	12	752	24
Total	**39,297**	**422**	**9,359**	**104**	**48,656**	**265**

Note: Spousal violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, opposite and same sex common-law partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89. Excludes incidents where the sex of the victim was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 spousal population (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.3
Victims of police-reported dating violence, by age group and sex of victim, Canada, 2010

	Female victims		Male victims		Total dating violence victims	
Age groups	**number**	**rate**	**number**	**rate**	**number**	**rate**
15 to 24 years	18,399	948	3,132	142	21,531	520
25 to 34 years	12,894	1,337	3,569	283	16,463	739
35 to 44 years	7,238	1,100	2,498	323	9,736	680
45 to 54 years	3,628	470	1,492	200	5,120	337
55 to 64 years	587	86	398	84	985	85
65 years and over	125	9	97	18	222	12
Total	**42,871**	**672**	**11,186**	**186**	**54,057**	**436**

Note: Dating violence refers to violence committed by boyfriends/girlfriends (current and previous) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89. Excludes incidents where the sex of the victim was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 unmarried population (single, separated, divorced, widowed). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.4
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by intimate and non-intimate partners, type of offence and sex of victim, Canada, 2010

	Victims of intimate partner violence[1]					
	Female victims		Male victims		Total	
Type of offence	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
Homicide/attempts	146	0.2	53	0.3	199	0.2
Sexual assault[3]	2,309	3	60	0	2,369	2
Physical assault	57,989	71	16,304	79	74,293	72
Major assault (levels 2 and 3)[4]	8,506	10	3,809	19	12,315	12
Common assault (level 1)[5]	46,685	57	11,764	57	58,449	57
Other assaults[6]	2,798	3	731	4	3,529	3
Criminal harassment	7,075	9	1,057	5	8,132	8
Indecent/harassing phone calls	4,022	5	1,316	6	5,338	5
Uttering threats	7,820	10	1,580	8	9,400	9
Robbery	257	0	49	0	306	0
Other violent offences[7]	2,550	3	126	1	2,676	3
Total offences	**82,168**	**100**	**20,545**	**100**	**102,713**	**100**

	Victims of non-intimate partner violence[2]					
	Female victims		Male victims		Total	
Type of offence	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
Homicide/attempts	184	0.2	746	0.4	930	0.3
Sexual assault[3]	19,056	16	3,586	2	22,642	8
Physical assault	57,241	47	108,475	64	165,716	57
Major assault (levels 2 and 3)[4]	10,177	8	30,667	18	40,844	14
Common assault (level 1)[5]	43,506	36	66,471	39	109,977	38
Other assaults[6]	3,558	3	11,337	7	14,895	5
Criminal harassment	7,431	6	3,545	2	10,976	4
Indecent/harassing phone calls	8,720	7	4,334	3	13,054	4
Uttering threats	18,752	15	28,116	17	46,868	16
Robbery	7,930	7	18,842	11	26,772	9
Other violent offences[7]	2,295	2	2,507	1	4,802	2
Total offences	**121,609**	**100**	**170,151**	**100**	**291,760**	**100**

1. Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners, dating partners (current and previous) and other intimate partners. The intimate partner category is based on victims aged 15 to 89.
2. Non-intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by other family members (parent, child, sibling, and extended family), friends, acquaintances, business relationships, criminal relationships, authority figures, and strangers. The non-intimate partner category is based on victims aged 0 to 89.
3. Includes sexual assault, classified as one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incidents. Level 1 sexual assault is the category of least physical injury to the victim; level 2 includes sexual assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm; and level 3 includes aggravated sexual assault which wounds, maims, disfigures, or endangers the life of the victim. Also includes other sexual crimes such as sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, incest, corrupting children, luring a child via a computer, and voyeurism.
4. Level 2 assault is defined as assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and level 3 assault is defined as assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.
5. Level 1 assault is the least serious form of assault and includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats.
6. Other assaults include unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge firearm with intent, assault against peace-public officer, and other assaults.
7. Includes abduction, kidnapping, hostage-taking, arson and other violent violations.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.5
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by intimate and non-intimate partners and most serious weapon present, Canada, 2010

	Victims of spousal violence		**Victims of dating violence**		**Victims of intimate partner violence[1]**		**Victims of non-intimate partner violence[2]**	
Type of weapon	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
No weapon[3]	7,809	17	11,717	22	19,526	20	62,806	23
Physical force	32,646	70	34,684	66	67,330	68	158,171	57
Weapons	6,054	13	5,902	11	11,956	12	55,350	20
Firearm	299	1	265	1	564	1	7,592	3
Knife[4]	2,028	4	1,937	4	3,965	4	17,784	6
Club/blunt instrument	1,045	2	699	1	1,744	2	8,639	3
Other weapon[5]	2,682	6	3,001	6	5,683	6	21,335	8
Unknown	2,147	...	1,754	...	3,901	...	15,433	...
Total	**48,656**	**100**	**54,057**	**100**	**102,713**	**100**	**291,760**	**100**

... not applicable

1. Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, and common-law, dating partners (current and previous) and other intimate partners. The intimate partner category is based on victims aged 15 to 89.
2. Non-intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by other family members (parent, child, sibling, and extended family), friends, acquaintances, business relationships, criminal relationships, authority figures, and strangers. The non-intimate partner category is based on victims aged 0 to 89.
3. Includes threats that are construed to imply that death or injury is possible.
4. Knife includes other piercing/cutting instrument, such as a hatchet, razor blade or arrow.
5. Includes other types of weapons such as explosives, fire, motor vehicles, or poison.

Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Unknown weapons are excluded in the calculation of percentages. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.6
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by clearance status and type of intimate partner relationship, Canada, 2010

Type of incident clearance status	Victims of spousal violence[1]		Victims of dating violence[2]		Total victims of intimate partner violence	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Not cleared[3]	4,734	11	7,919	15	12,653	13
Cleared by charge	31,136	70	35,157	67	66,293	68
Cleared otherwise	8,524	19	9,645	18	18,169	19
Complainant requests charges not be laid	3,926	9	5,277	10	9,203	9
Reasons beyond the control of department	2,607	6	607	1	3,214	3
Departmental discretion	1,724	4	3,415	6	5,139	5
Other[4]	267	1	346	1	613	1
Total	**44,394**	**100**	**52,721**	**100**	**97,115**	**100**

1. Spousal violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, and common-law partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
2. Dating partner violence refers to violence committed by boyfriends/girlfriends (current and previous), and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
3. 'Not cleared' refers to incidents where an accused person has not been identified in connection with the incident.
4. 'Cleared by other means' includes suicide of accused, death of accused, death of witness/complainant, accused is less than 12 years of age, committal of accused to mental hospital, accused in foreign country, accused involved in other incidents, accused already sentenced, diversionary programs, incidents cleared by a lesser statute, incident cleared by other municipal/provincial/federal agency.

Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes information from the Montréal Police Service due to the unavailability of clearance data in 2010.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.7
Victims of spousal homicides, by sex, Canada, 1991 to 2010

	Female victims			Male victims			Total victims of spousal homicide		
Year	number	rate[1]	percent of total solved homicides against females aged 15 and older	number	rate[1]	percent of total solved homicides against males aged 15 and older	number	rate[1]	percent of total solved homicides against individuals aged 15 and older
1991	87	11.6	42.6	25	3.4	6.9	112	7.5	19.9
1992	88	11.6	44.7	18	2.4	4.8	106	7.1	18.5
1993	64	8.3	41.3	24	3.2	7.3	88	5.8	18.3
1994	66	8.5	45.5	20	2.6	6.6	86	5.6	19.2
1995	71	9.0	48.3	22	2.9	7.4	93	6.0	21.0
1996	63	7.9	41.2	19	2.5	6.0	82	5.2	17.4
1997	63	7.8	42.9	15	1.9	6.0	78	4.9	19.5
1998	57	7.0	44.2	13	1.6	4.9	70	4.4	17.8
1999	60	7.3	43.2	11	1.4	4.5	71	4.4	18.4
2000	53	6.4	44.5	17	2.1	6.5	70	4.3	18.3
2001	71	8.5	56.3	18	2.2	6.4	89	5.4	21.9
2002	68	8.0	42.0	16	1.9	6.0	84	5.0	19.6
2003	64	7.5	54.7	14	1.7	5.0	78	4.6	19.6
2004	63	7.3	40.9	12	1.4	4.2	75	4.4	17.0
2005	63	7.2	46.0	12	1.4	3.6	75	4.3	15.8
2006	56	6.3	48.7	22	2.6	7.0	78	4.5	18.1
2007	50	5.6	40.3	13	1.5	4.8	63	3.6	15.9
2008	45	5.0	40.9	17	1.9	5.9	62	3.5	15.7
2009	49	5.3	43.4	16	1.8	5.3	65	3.6	15.6
2010	48	5.1	39.3	17	1.9	6.4	65	3.5	16.7
Percent change in rates (1991 and 2010)	...	-55.7	...	...	-44.8	...	...	-53.1	...
Percent change in rates (2000 and 2010)	...	-19.6	...	...	-10.6	...	...	-17.3	...

... not applicable

[1] Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 spousal population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Note: Trends in spousal homicide are presented from 1991 onward to be in line with the availability of trend information on dating homicide and intimate partner homicide overall. Data on homicides between dating partners are not available prior to 1991. The Homicide Survey was revised and expanded in 1991 in an effort to respond to changing information needs. Spousal homicide refers to homicide committed by legally married, separated, divorced, and common-law partners. Includes victims aged 15 years and older. Excludes homicides where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 2.8
Victims of dating homicide, by sex, Canada, 1991 to 2010

	Female victims			Male victims			Total dating homicide victims		
Year	number	rate[1]	percent of total solved homicides against females aged 15 and over	number	rate[1]	percent of total solved homicides against males aged 15 and over	number	rate[1]	percent of total solved homicides of persons aged 15 and over
1991	32	7.3	15.7	4	1.0	1.1	36	4.3	6.4
1992	28	6.3	14.2	8	2.0	2.1	36	4.2	6.3
1993	20	4.4	12.9	10	2.4	3.1	30	3.5	6.2
1994	13	2.8	9.0	7	1.7	2.3	20	2.3	4.5
1995	14	3.0	9.5	11	2.6	3.7	25	2.8	5.6
1996	19	3.9	12.4	10	2.3	3.1	29	3.2	6.2
1997	16	3.3	10.9	4	0.9	1.6	20	2.1	5.0
1998	10	2.0	7.8	1	0.2	0.4	11	1.2	2.8
1999	17	3.4	12.2	3	0.7	1.2	20	2.1	5.2
2000	21	4.1	17.6	3	0.6	1.1	24	2.5	6.3
2001	7	1.3	5.6	6	1.3	2.1	13	1.3	3.2
2002	10	1.9	6.2	7	1.4	2.6	17	1.7	4.0
2003	8	1.5	6.8	3	0.6	1.1	11	1.1	2.8
2004	13	2.3	8.4	9	1.7	3.1	22	2.1	5.0
2005	14	2.5	10.2	3	0.6	0.9	17	1.6	3.6
2006	11	1.9	9.6	4	0.7	1.3	15	1.3	3.5
2007	9	1.5	7.3	10	1.8	3.7	19	1.7	4.8
2008	18	3.0	16.4	8	1.4	2.8	26	2.2	6.6
2009	18	3.0	15.9	5	0.9	1.7	23	2.0	5.5
2010	15	2.3	12.3	9	1.6	3.4	24	2.0	6.2
Percent change between 1991 and 2010	...	-68.6	...	...	55.8	...	...	-54.6	...
Percent change between 2000 and 2010	...	-44.1	...	...	143.3	...	...	-20.4	...

... not applicable

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 unmarried population (single, divorced, widowed). For this table, the separated population has been excluded from the unmarried population. This is because prior to 2007, the separated population was combined with the legally married population. As a result, the population used for the calculation of dating homicide rates differs from the population used to calculate 2010 rates of dating violence. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Note: Dating partner homicides refers to homicides committed by boyfriends/girlfriends (current and previous), and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 years and older. Data on homicides between dating partners are not available prior to 1991. The Homicide Survey was revised and expanded in 1991 in an effort to respond to changing information needs. Excludes homicides where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 2.9
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by intimate and non-intimate partner relationship and province and territory, 2010

Province and territory	Victims of intimate partner violence[1]		Victims of non-intimate partner violence[2]	
	number	rate[3]	number	rate[3]
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,806	418	4,775	942
Prince Edward Island	414	348	1,147	812
Nova Scotia	3,209	403	9,935	1,063
New Brunswick	2,801	443	7,517	1,007
Quebec	19,797	299	57,861	740
Ontario	28,850	264	86,914	669
Manitoba	5,965	601	17,270	1,454
Saskatchewan	7,036	841	17,840	1,760
Alberta	14,054	465	35,555	959
British Columbia	16,259	427	47,336	1,054
Yukon	343	1,201	1,004	2,914
Northwest Territories	988	2,877	2,519	5,765
Nunavut	1,191	5,319	2,087	6,286
Canada	**102,713**	**363**	**291,760**	**867**

1. Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, opposite and same sex common-law, dating partners (current and previous) and other intimate partners. Intimate partner category includes victims aged 15 to 89.
2. Non-intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by other family members (parent, child, sibling, and extended family), friends, acquaintances, business relationships, criminal relationships, authority figures, and strangers. Non-intimate partner category is based on victims aged 0 to 89.
3. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown and where the relationship of the victim and accused was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.10
Victims of intimate partner homicide, by sex of victim and province and territory, 2000 to 2010

	Female victims		**Male victims**		**Total intimate partner homicide victims**	
Province and territory	***number***	***rate***[1]	***number***	***rate***[1]	***number***	***rate***[1]
Newfoundland and Labrador	14	7.9	2	1.2	16	4.7
Prince Edward Island	x	x	x	x	3	3.6
Nova Scotia	15	4.6	2	0.7	17	2.8
New Brunswick	19	7.4	5	2.1	24	4.9
Quebec	177	6.9	36	1.5	213	4.3
Ontario	266	6.7	56	1.5	322	4.2
Manitoba	37	10.6	27	8.3	64	9.5
Saskatchewan	28	9.5	30	11.0	58	10.2
Alberta	86	8.8	35	3.6	121	6.2
British Columbia	115	8.1	40	3.0	155	5.6
Yukon	1	10.8	3	31.5	4	21.3
Northwest Territories	x	x	x	x	4	20.2
Nunavut	9	294.4	5	142.5	14	213.2
Canada	**774**	**7.4**	**241**	**2.5**	**1,015**	**5.0**

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Note: Intimate partner homicide refers to homicides against legally married, separated, divorced, common-law, and dating partners (current and previous). A small number of dating partner victims under the age of 15 years have been excluded. Excludes homicides where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 2.11
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex of victim and census metropolitan area, 2010

Census metropolitan area (CMA)[1, 2]	Female victims		Male victims		Total intimate partner violence victims	
	number	rate[3]	number	rate[3]	number	rate[3]
Thunder Bay	499	966	138	278	637	629
Regina	823	899	219	251	1,042	583
Saint John	378	840	107	263	485	566
Saskatoon	911	812	191	173	1,102	495
Abbotsford-Mission	574	811	92	130	666	471
Kelowna	565	732	190	255	755	497
Brantford	413	711	86	155	499	439
Winnipeg	2,254	693	460	145	2,714	422
Moncton	390	662	104	187	494	432
Halifax	1,081	612	289	175	1,370	401
St. John's	496	610	159	211	655	418
Edmonton	2,870	598	643	130	3,513	360
Gatineau[4]	723	565	175	140	898	355
Greater Sudbury	388	550	88	130	476	344
London	1,111	529	257	128	1,368	333
Victoria	829	521	197	132	1,026	333
Windsor	681	497	119	89	800	296
Vancouver	5,100	497	1,276	129	6,376	316
Hamilton[5]	1,106	487	293	135	1,399	315
Montréal	7,977	487	1,964	124	9,941	309
Guelph	250	476	71	142	321	313
Kingston	323	466	72	108	395	291
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo	989	462	276	130	1,265	296
Trois-Rivières	287	434	39	63	326	254
St.Catharines-Niagara	824	431	170	94	994	267
Québec	1,366	417	327	104	1,693	264
Calgary	2,022	404	469	90	2,491	244
Peterborough	207	387	53	107	260	253

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 2.11 (continued)
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex of victim and census metropolitan area, 2010

Census metropolitan area (CMA)[1, 2]	**Female victims**		**Male victims**		**Total intimate partner violence victims**	
	number	**rate**[3]	**number**	**rate**[3]	**number**	**rate**[3]
Toronto[6]	8,228	375	1,781	85	10,009	234
Saguenay	233	371	51	83	284	229
Barrie	270	333	58	73	328	205
Sherbrooke[7]	249	307	48	63	297	189
Ottawa[8]	1,035	259	198	52	1,233	158
CMA Total[9]	**46,795**	**469**	**10,965**	**114**	**57,760**	**294**
Non-CMA Total	**35,373**	**855**	**9,580**	**230**	**44,953**	**542**
Canada	**82,168**	**575**	**20,545**	**147**	**102,713**	**363**

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
2. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.
3. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
4. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
5. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police that polices the CMA of Hamilton.
6. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.
7. The 2010 data for the Sherbrooke CMA are estimates based on 2009 data due to the unavailability of data in 2010.
8. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
9. Includes Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police, which are responsible for policing more than one CMA. This total also includes the portion of Durham Regional Police that polices the Oshawa CMA. Because of these inclusions, the CMA total will not equal the total of the individual CMAs.

Note: Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, opposite and same sex common-law, dating partners (current and previous) and other intimate partners. Intimate partner category includes victims aged 15 to 89. Excludes homicides where the victim-accused relationship and/or age and/or sex of the victim was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Section 3: Family violence against children and youth

By Maire Sinha

The protection of the rights of children from violence and maltreatment has been recognized and entrenched in both international and national laws and conventions. Canada, as a ratifying member of the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, recognizes that all children and youth are entitled to the full range of human rights, including the right to be properly cared for and protected from all forms of violence by parents or other caregivers.[36] The *Criminal Code of Canada* and provincial and territorial child protection legislation are the two legal mechanisms in Canada that ensure that these rights are upheld.

While there can be overlap in the types of harm covered under criminal and civil law, the *Criminal Code* and provincial/territorial child protection legislation together cover a broad spectrum of maltreatment and violence perpetrated against children and youth. Examples of these harms include neglect, exposure to family violence, physical abuse, sexual abuse, homicide, and other forms of violent crime. Some types of child maltreatment, such as emotional abuse or exposure to spousal violence, may never reach the criminal threshold and would therefore not result in a police response or *Criminal Code* charges. However, in many cases, these occurrences would still be considered serious events requiring the involvement of provincial/territorial child welfare services (Trocmé et al. 2010).

Accurately measuring the true extent and nature of violence against children and youth poses some formidable challenges.[37] Data on child abuse are limited to official sources of information from police and child welfare services. Unlike for older victims, where population-based surveys such as the General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization are able to provide indicators of self-reported victimization experiences and levels of reporting to police, there is no equivalent national survey instrument for all children and youth.[38,39] Consequently, the actual extent and nature of violence against children and youth is unknown. It has been suggested that levels of reporting to official sources may be lower for violence against children than violence directed at older victims (AuCoin 2005; Ogrodnik 2010).[40] Children may be unable or reluctant to report their victimization due to their age and stage of physical, mental and cognitive development and/or due to the fear of consequences (United Nations 2011; AuCoin 2005; Justice Canada 2001). This is in addition to the hidden nature of abuse that can lead to reduced levels of detection and subsequent reporting by others (Kesner et al. 2009; Lazenbatt and Freeman 2006).

That said, a number of initiatives have been enacted to facilitate reporting of violent offences against children and youth to police or child welfare authorities (AuCoin 2005). Most notably, all provinces and territories have enacted mandatory reporting laws requiring professionals working with children and often members of the general public to report suspected cases of child abuse to authorities, either police or child welfare agencies (Trocmé et al. 2010). However, there can be significant variations in levels of reporting due to both individuals' own attitudes and legal differences in what constitutes suspected maltreatment and the definition of children or youth[41] (Levi and Portwood 2011).

The current analysis examines *Criminal Code* violent violations against children and youth using police-reported data as well as one form of child maltreatment, children witnessing spousal violence as measured through the 2009 General Social Survey on Victimization. Analysis uses data from two police-reported surveys, the incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey and the Homicide Survey, to examine the prevalence and characteristics of violent offences against children and youth. Patterns of offences in the family sphere are compared against those not involving family members. The section on violence against children and youth examines all types of *Criminal Code* violent violations against children and youth. This includes the full continuum of violence, ranging from uttering threats, physical and sexual violence, to homicide.

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[36] The UN *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)* came into effect on September 2, 1990. Canada ratified the CRC in December 1991. As of December 10, 2010, it had been ratified by 193 countries (Canadian Heritage 2011).

[37] One of Canada's roles in implementing the UN *Convention on the Rights of the Child* is collecting and disseminating data on the well-being of children to monitor progress and to aid in the improvement of children's situations.

[38] The General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization captures data on Canadians aged 15 years and older. Hence, some information is available for older youths aged 15 to 17.

[39] Additional data sources, such as hospital morbidity data, have been suggested as an alternative measurement for capturing data on child abuse. This approach would rely on the detection and coding of child abuse cases by health professionals (McKenzie and Scott 2011).

[40] According to the 2004 GSS on victimization, 80% of individuals aged 15 to 17 years did not report their victimization to police (Ogrodnik 2010). The sample of individuals aged 15 to 17 years was too small in the 2009 GSS on victimization to permit reliable estimates of violent victimization rates or reporting levels to police.

[41] Provincial/territorial child protection legislation varies in the ages covered (Trocmé et al. 2010).

The second half of the section examines results from the 2009 GSS on Victimization[42] to present the nature and extent of children witnessing spousal violence. This information is based on self-reported data from spousal violence victims on whether their child heard or saw violence against them. Information on types of child maltreatment and abuse reported to child welfare authorities is contained in Text box 3.1 on the Overview of findings from the 2008 Canadian Incidence Study (CIS) of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect.

Prevalence of police-reported violent crimes against children and youth

Rates of sexual crimes higher among children and youth than adults

Children and youth under the age of 18 are less likely than the adult population to be violently victimized. In 2010, there were approximately 74,000 child and youth victims of violent crime, representing a rate of 1,080 victims per 100,000 population under the age of 18 (Table 3.1). This was 10% lower than the violent crime rate recorded for adults (1,199 victims per 100,000 population). Despite the overall lower rate of violent victimization, children and youth were more at risk of sexual-based crimes.

In particular, children and youth were five times more likely than adults to become a victim of sexual offences (212 versus 41 per 100,000), with level 1 sexual assaults accounting for three-quarters (75%) of these sex crimes. Another 22% of sexual offences committed against children and youth were child-specific, including sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, luring a child via a computer, and corrupting children.

Majority of violent crimes committed by someone known to the child

Previous research has indicated that the immediate environment of children and youth can influence their risk of victimization (United Nations 2006). Police-reported data supports this assertion, as violent crime against children and youth most often involves someone known to the child victim.

Together, violence committed by family or by friends or acquaintances accounted for 8 in 10 police-reported violent crimes against children and youth. More specifically, one-quarter (25%) of violence against the child and youth population was committed by a family member, including a parent, sibling, extended family member or spouse, while more than half (54%) of violent crimes involved other accused known to the victim. These included casual acquaintances[43] (37%), close friends (7%), dating partners (6%) or another type of acquaintance[44] (4%). The higher proportion of violence committed by someone known to the victim is consistent with previous years. Strangers were the perpetrators in one in five (21%) violent offences against children and youth.

Rates can be used to examine the relative prevalence of family violence compared to non-family violence. According to police-reported data for 2010, the rate of family violence against children and youth was three times lower than the rate recorded for non-family violence, which includes both perpetrators known to the victim and strangers (274 versus 807 per 100,000 population of children and youth) (Table 3.2).

As discussed in Section 1, there has been some consideration by researchers and governments on the inclusion of dating violence within the scope of family violence. It has been suggested that dating violence shares many characteristics with violence against spouses and common-law partners, one of which includes the repetitive nature of the violence (Ogrodnik 2006). If dating violence were included in the definition of family violence against children and youth, the rate would be 25% higher than a family violence rate excluding violence against dating partners (342 per 100,000 versus 274 per 100,000). Detailed information on dating violence against individuals aged 12 to 14 and against those aged 15 years and older is presented in Section 2: Violence against intimate partners. This publication excludes dating violence from a definition of family violence.

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[42] Data from Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded.

[43] Includes casual acquaintances (social relationships that are neither long-term nor close) and neighbours.

[44] Includes authority figures, criminal associates, and business associates.

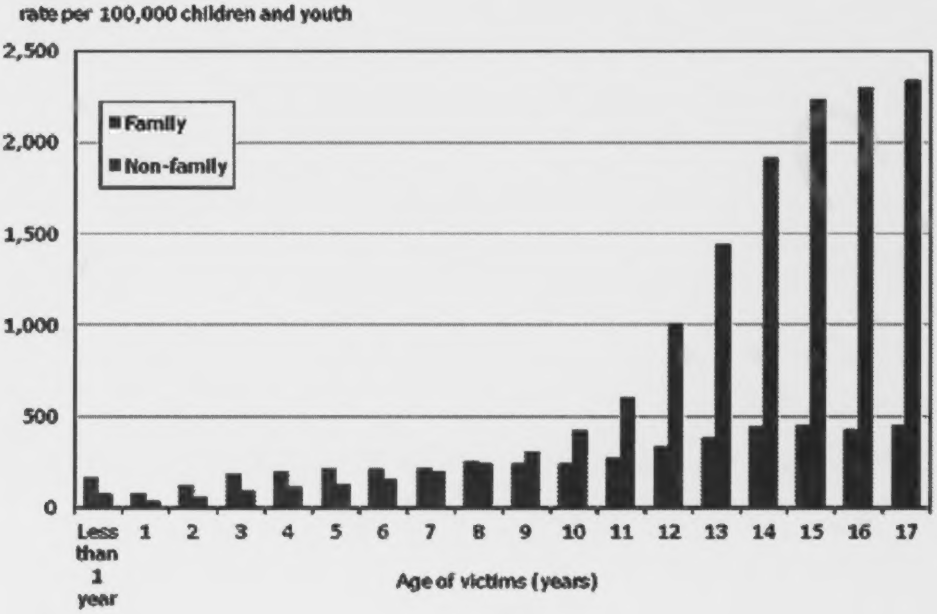
Risk factors for police-reported violence against children and youth[45]

Young children more at risk from family members than other perpetrators

Identifying the risk factors that make children and youth most vulnerable to family violence is fundamental to the prevention and intervention of child abuse. Previous research has shown that both age and sex of children are related to a child and youth's level of risk for family violence (Sinha 2011; Ogrodnik 2010). These victim characteristics have also been identified as contributing factors in rates of non-family violence against children and youth.

As a reflection of the child's environment and range of contacts, younger children (up to eight years of age), who are generally more dependent on their primary caregivers, often their parents, are more at risk of violence from family members than other types of offenders (Chart 3.1). As children grow older, the array of activities, contacts, and independence from their families broaden, which in turn, increases the risk of victimization from individuals outside the family. Among youth aged 12 to 17 who had been victimized, about one in five (18%) were violently victimized by someone within their own family network. This compares to 47% of child victims aged 3 to 11 years, and 70% of infant and toddler victims under the age of 3 years.

Chart 3.1
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by family and non-family members and age of victim, Canada, 2010



Note: Family includes parents, siblings, extended family members and spouses. Non-family includes acquaintances, friends, neighbours, authority figures (e.g., teacher, daycare worker), dating partners, criminal relationships, business relationships, and strangers. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Overall rates of police-reported violent crime highest among older children and youth

While younger children were more frequently victimized in 2010 by a family member than any other perpetrator, their rates of police-reported family violence remained lower than those of older children and youth. This is consistent with previous findings indicating that older children and youth have higher rates of both police-reported family and non-family violence (Ogrodnik 2010). In particular, rates of family violence peaked during the adolescent years of 14 to 17, where age-specific rates held steady at around 440 victims per 100,000 population. In comparison, police-reported rates of non-family violence continuously increased with age, peaking for youth at age 17 years (2,333 per 100,000) (Chart 3.1).

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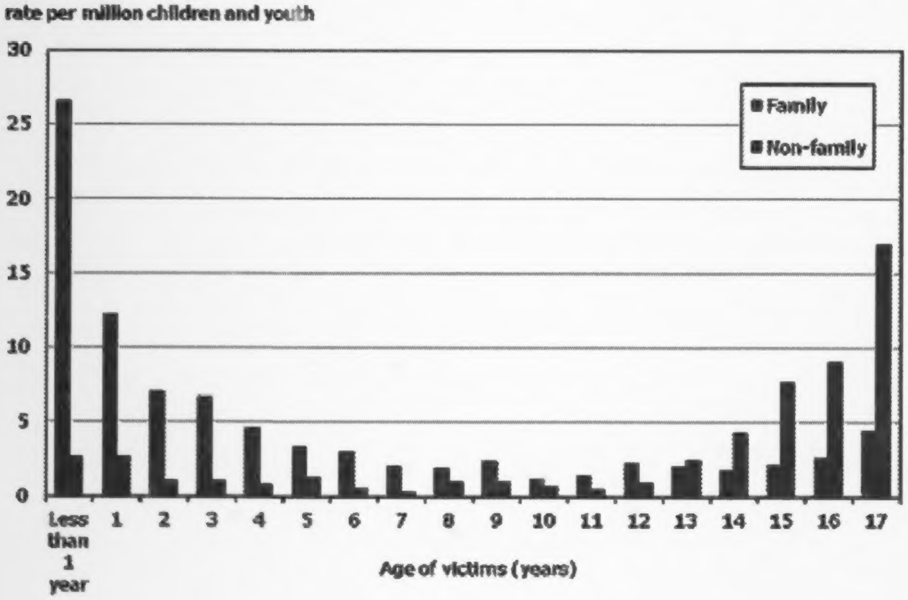
[45] The following sections examine the characteristics of family violence according to the definition of family violence exclusive of dating violence.

Family-related homicide is the one notable exception to these age-specific patterns in rates of violent crime. Based on ten-year data from the Homicide Survey, infants and young children were most vulnerable to family homicide (Chart 3.2). This risk of familial homicide subsides with the child's age and increases again, though to a lesser degree, in late adolescence. For instance, there were 27 homicides for every million infants under one, compared to a rate of 9 per million children aged 1 to 3, 2 per million children aged 7 to 12, and 3 per million adolescents aged 13 to 17. Over this same ten year period, the vast majority of homicides of infants and toddlers were committed by parents (98% of family homicides against infants under one, and 90% of family homicides of children aged 1 to 3 years)[46] (Chart 3.3).

Chart 3.2
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of homicide, by family and non-family members and age of victim, Canada, 2000 to 2010



Note: Family includes parents, siblings, extended family members and spouses. Non-family includes acquaintances, friends, neighbours, authority figures (e.g., teacher, daycare worker), dating partners, criminal relationships, business relationships, and strangers. Excludes homicides where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 children and youth population (0 to 17 years). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

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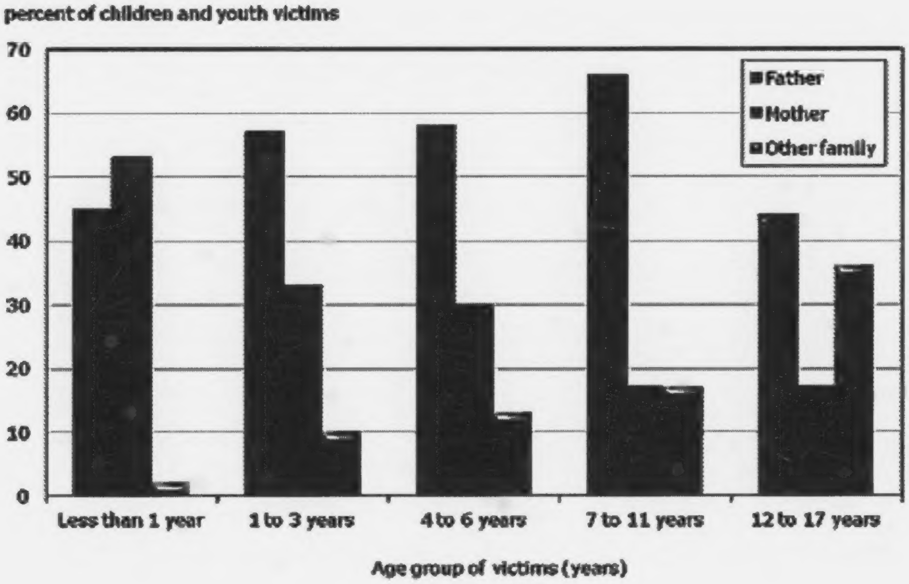
[46] For this analysis, a subset consisting of homicide incidents with a single accused was created, which represents 95% of the total number of persons accused of family violence against children and youth between 2000 and 2010. The results shown are derived from this subset of single accused.

Chart 3.3
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of family homicide, by type of accused-victim relationship and age of victim, 2000 to 2010



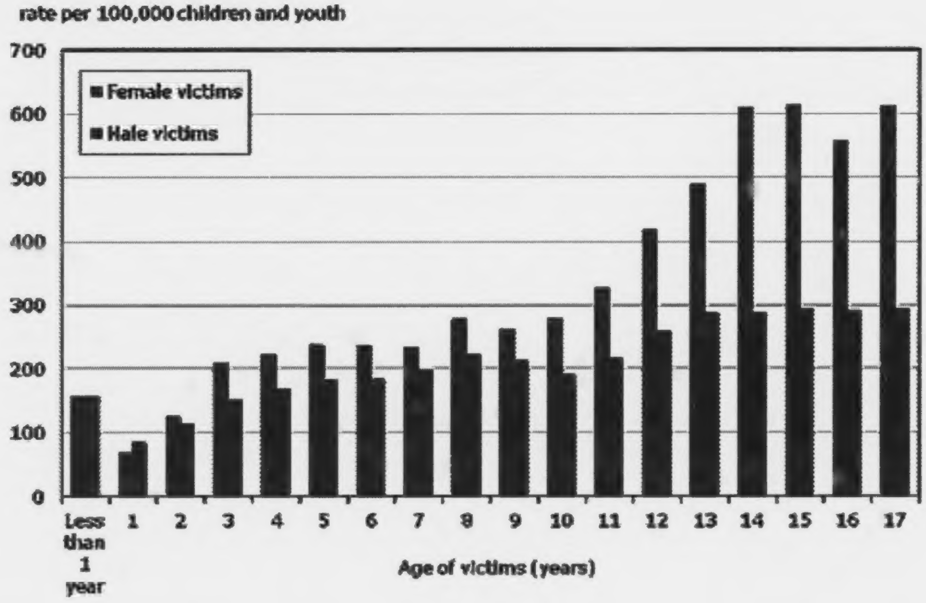
Note: For this chart, a subset consisting of homicide incidents with a single accused was created, which represents 95% of the total number of persons accused of family violence against children and youth between 2000 and 2010. The percentages shown are derived from this subset of single accused. Fathers and mothers include biological, step, foster and adoptive parents. Other family members include all other related to the victim through blood, marriage, foster care, or adoption. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

As some research shows, the higher rates of family homicides among young children may be partly related to young children's early stages of growth and physical vulnerability to injury (Miehl 2005; Blumenthal 2002). This is particularly possible in cases of Shaken Baby Syndrome, which results from the violent shaking of infants or young children, with or without impact to the head (CDC 2012). Nearly one-third (31%) of family-related homicides of infants less than one year between 2000 and 2010 were attributed to Shaken Baby Syndrome (Table 3.3). Strangulation, suffocation, and drowning accounted for another 25% of infant deaths, while beating was the cause of death in 25% of homicides. Other means, including shootings or stabbings, accounted for 14% of killings of infants by a family member.

Girls at higher risk of family violence than boys

There is a combined effect of age and sex on a child and youth's risk of family violence. Overall, in 2010, girls were 37% more likely than boys to be the victims of violent crime committed by their family members (338 incidents per 100,000 population compared to 212 per 100,000) (Table 3.4). This elevated risk of family violence intensifies with age (Chart 3.4). While the rates of family violence between boys and girls were similar before three years of age, thereafter the rates began to diverge and the difference continued to widen until adolescence. By 12 to 17 years of age, the rate for girls was nearly double the rate for boys (552 per 100,000 versus 284 per 100,000).

Chart 3.4
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of family violence, by age and sex of victim, Canada, 2010



Note: Family includes parents, siblings, extended family members and spouses. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

The leading contributor to the higher rates of family violence among girls, particularly as they age, relates to their much higher risk of sexual violence (Table 3.5). They were more than four times as likely as boys to be a victim of sexual assault or other sexual offences (134 victims per 100,000 population versus 30 per 100,000 population) committed by a family member.

For violence not involving family members, a somewhat different gender-based risk emerges. In 2010, the rates of non-family violence were generally higher for boys, with the exception of sexual violence and forcible confinement/kidnapping offences. The generally higher level of risk for boys was most pronounced for children aged 3 to 11 years of age, but was more muted among adolescents. No gender difference existed in a child's first three years of life for non-family violence.

Accused characteristics of police-reported violence against children and youth

Males most common perpetrators of family violence

To obtain a more complete picture of violence against children and youth, it is important to examine the characteristics of offenders,[47] including their sex, age, and relationship to the child or youth. As with non-family violence, males were over-represented as accused persons in incidents of family violence (79%). This was true irrespective of the age and sex of the victim.

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[47] To examine particular accused characteristics, a subset consisting of incidents with only a single accused was created. The percentages in this analysis are derived from a subset of accused representing 76% of the total number of persons accused of violence against children and youth in 2010 (71% of family violence and 79% of non-family violence).

The age of individuals accused of family violence and non-family violence is intrinsically connected to their relationship to the victim and the age of the child or youth victim. In 2010, family members accused of violence against children and youth tended to range in age, from adolescent accused to those in their fifties. However, as a reflection of parents' involvement as accused family members, the age of the accused generally increases as children age.

Also, the most common family members responsible for violence against children and youth tends to vary with the age of the child and youth. For incidents of violence involving children under the age of three, parents accounted for 83% of accused family members. The involvement of parents then drops to 65% for children between 3 and 11 years of age, and continues to decrease for youths aged 12 to 17 (54%).

Unlike family violence where the ages of the accused are more diverse, most perpetrators in non-family violence incidents against children and youth are the children's peers. In 2010, nearly six in ten (57%) of those accused of non-family violence against children or youth were under the age of 18.

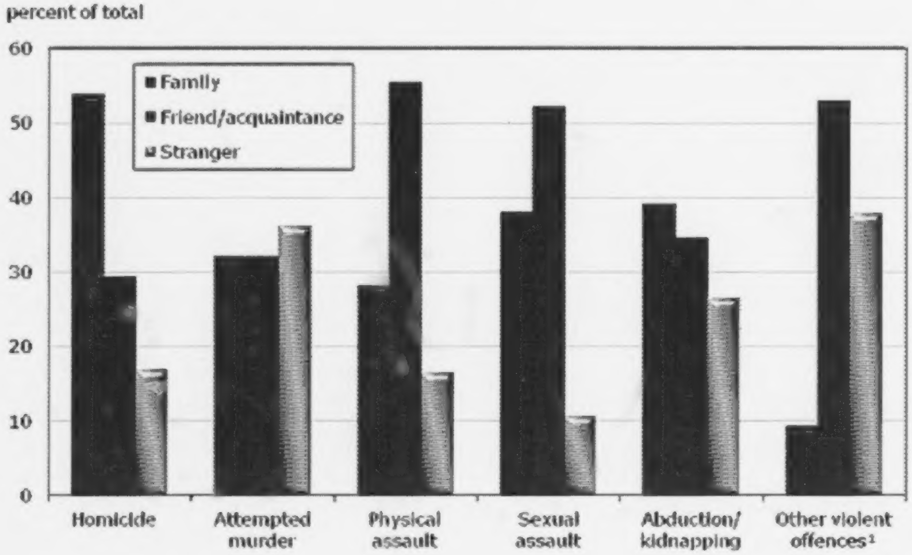
Severity of police-reported violence against children and youth

Family members most often identified in homicides against children and youth

To examine the seriousness of family violence against children and youth relative to non-family violence, there are three key indicators: offence severity, level of injury and use of weapon. The gravity of the offence or offence severity can often be best understood based on the Crime Severity Index. This index identifies the offences that are more or less serious by taking into account the average sentences handed down by criminal courts. Based on the Crime Severity Index, violent offences range in seriousness from homicide to the offence of indecent/harassing phone calls. Any patterns in offence severity, however, will be tempered by the fact that only the most serious offences may come to the attention of police due to the hidden nature of child abuse.

According to police-reported data, when violence culminates in the killing of a child or youth, family members were most often implicated (Chart 3.5). Specifically, 54% of solved homicides against children and youth were committed by a parent, sibling, extended family or spouse. By comparison, friends or acquaintances accounted for 29% of solved homicides and strangers for the remaining 17%.

Chart 3.5
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by type of accused-victim relationship and type of offence, Canada, 2010



1. Other violent offences include criminal harassment, uttering threats, indecent or harassing phone calls, trafficking in persons and other violent violations.

Note: Family includes parents, siblings, extended family members and spouses. Friend/acquaintance includes acquaintances, friends, neighbours, authority figures (e.g., teacher, daycare worker), dating partners, criminal relationships and business relationships. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Using the Homicide Survey, it is possible to examine the reasons or motives behind the accused committing the most serious violent crime, homicide.[48] Regardless of the age of the victim, the most common motivating factor in family homicides was the accused person's frustration. This was particularly evident in homicides of children under 6 years of age, where 71% of accused family members killed the child for this reason. Similarly, non-family members were often motivated by frustration when the child was less than six years of age (70%). Motivating factors in non-family homicides against older children and youth were more varied. For example, for homicides against youth aged 12 to 17 years, the most common motive was the escalation of an argument (29%), followed by frustration (18%).

For non-lethal violence, family members were less likely to be the perpetrator of most types of crimes. Friends and acquaintances accounted for the majority of perpetrators of both physical and sexual assaults in 2010 (55% and 52%, respectively). The only exception was incest, an offence which, by definition, is committed within the family network.

Family members were more likely the accused in abduction and forcible confinement/kidnapping offences against children and youth. This pattern was driven by the parent-specific offence of parental abduction. For other violent offences against children and youth, such as harassment, uttering threats, and robbery, family members represented a smaller proportion (9%) of all perpetrators.

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[48] Information on the motives of accused is not available from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey.

Frequency of injury similar between family and non-family violence against children and youth

The immediate consequences of violence against children and youth can be varied, and may include emotional, psychological and physical injury. Depending on the age and developmental stage, these consequences can also have long-term impacts on the behavioural, developmental and emotional health of children and youth (Johnson and Dawson 2011; Murray and Farrington 2010; Meltzer et al. 2009; Spilsbury et al. 2007; Krug et al. 2002). Using police-reported data, it is possible to look at the level of physical injury sustained by child and youth victims as an indicator of the severity of the violence.

Violence perpetrated by family members was equally as likely as other types of violence to result in injury to children and youth (40% and 37%). Physical injuries were more prevalent among male victims than female victims for both family (47% versus 36%) and non-family violence (41% versus 32%).

Despite the overall similarity in the patterns of injuries between family and non-family violence, there were some differences when examining specific offence types. Child and youth victims of family violence were less likely than victims of non-family violence to suffer injuries from attempted murder (38% versus 82%), forcible confinement/kidnapping and abduction (10% versus 31%), and other violent offences (e.g., robbery, criminal negligence causing bodily harm) (3% versus 10%). As far as physical and sexual assaults were concerned, there was little difference in the prevalence of injuries between family and non-family violence victims.

Generally speaking, injuries sustained by victims were relatively minor. In 2010, 97% of injuries to child victims of family violence and 96% of injuries to child victims of non-family violence required no professional medical treatment or some first aid (e.g., bandage, ice).

Physical force more common in family than non-family violence

The third indicator of seriousness of violence is the presence and use of weapons. In general, family violence against children and youth was more likely than other types of violence to involve physical force but was less likely to involve weapons.

More specifically, in three-quarters of incidents (76%), accused family members used physical force to threaten the child or to inflict injury (Table 3.6). By comparison, 62% of non-family violence incidents involved physical force against children and youth. The higher use of physical force against child and youth victims of family violence was found for homicide, as well as physical and sexual assaults. For other forms of violence, a larger share of non-family violence incidents than family violence incidents involved the use of physical force.

Family members were less likely than other offenders to use a weapon to threaten or harm the child or youth victim (14% versus 18%). The lower level of weapon involvement remained even when the weapon did, in fact, cause physical injury to the victim (13% of family violence incidents involved a weapon that caused injury versus 17% of non-family violence incidents).

There were also some salient differences in the types of weapons causing injury. In 2010, when a weapon was involved, firearms and knives/cutting instruments were more commonly used by offenders outside of the child or youth's family network (9% versus 4% among incidents of family violence).

Clearance rates

Family members more likely than non-family members to be charged by police

Violent incidents against children and youth can be reported to police by various individuals, ranging from witnesses, child welfare agencies, authority figures, such as teachers and coaches, and the victim themselves. Once a violent incident reaches the attention of police, the police may charge an accused or may deal with or clear the incident in another way, such as through departmental discretion. Alternatively, the incident may not be cleared. This occurs when an accused has not been identified in connection with the incident, or a suspect has been identified but there is insufficient evidence to lay a charge.[49]

In 2010, police more frequently laid charges against family members accused of violent crime against children and youth (45%), compared to other persons accused of violence against children and youth (34%).[50]

Among family members, common-law partners and legal spouses who were accused of violence against youth were more likely to be charged (57% of spouses), compared to parents accused of violence against children and youth (47% of parents), as well as accused extended family (42%) and accused siblings (41%). Charges against fathers and mothers were more often pursued when the child was under 3 years of age. Six in ten (60%) accused parents of infant and toddler victims were charged, compared to 44% of parents of 3 to 11 year-olds and 47% of parents of 12 to 17 year-olds.

Trends and regional variations in police-reported violence against children and youth

Difference between family and non-family homicides against children narrows

As mentioned earlier, rates of violence against children and youth can be influenced by a number of factors, notably variations in detection and reporting. Given that homicide is less prone to these issues, trend data on homicides against children and youth can be considered as a strong barometer of the changing level of violence against children and youth, at least for the most severe forms (Nivette 2011; United Nations 2011).

Consistent with historical trends, the 2010 rate of family-related homicides against children and youth remained higher than the non-family homicide rate against these victims (3.8 versus 3.3 per million) (Chart 3.6). However, the difference between family and non-family homicides has narrowed over the past decade. This narrowing can be attributed to the greater drops in rates of family homicide against children and youth.

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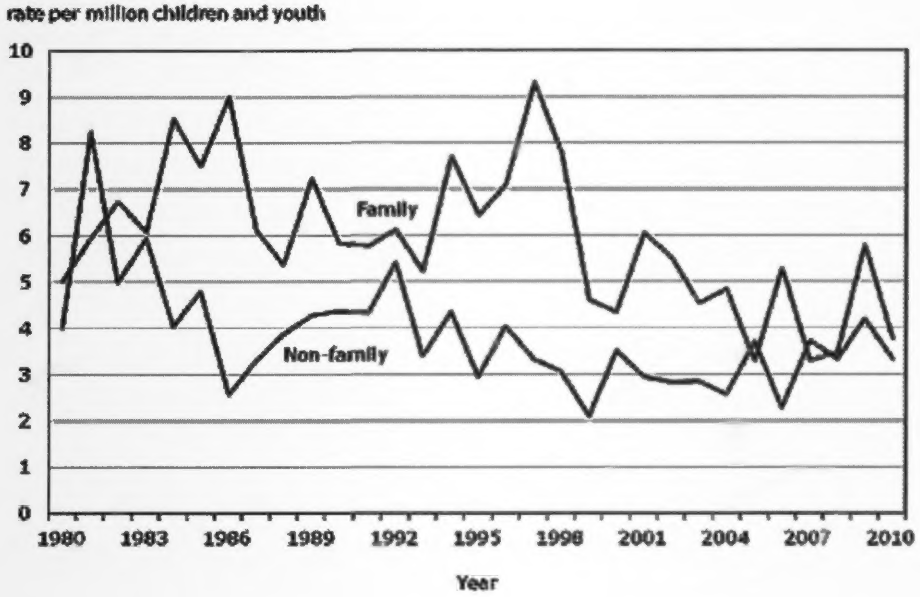
[49] The incident may not be cleared at the time of reporting to the UCR Survey, but may be cleared by police at a later time. Updates to the clearance status on the UCR Survey are made accordingly.

[50] Clearance data for Montreal were not available in 2010. As a result, they are excluded from all analysis of clearance information.

Chart 3.6

Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of homicides, by family and non-family members, Canada, 1980 to 2010



Note: Family include parents, siblings, extended family members and spouses. Non-family includes acquaintances, friends, neighbours, authority figures (e.g., teacher, daycare worker), dating relationships, criminal relationships, business relationships, and strangers. Excludes homicides where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 children and youth population (0 to 17 years). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Saskatchewan reported highest provincial rate of family violence against children and youth

Varying reporting requirements and differing definitions of children within provincial/territorial child welfare legislation are factors that may contribute to provincial and territorial variations in police-reported violent crimes against children and youth (Trocmé et al. 2010). For instance, more stringent reporting laws may result in more cases of child abuse coming to the attention of police, either directly or through other authorities.

That said, provincial and territorial differences in rates of family violence against children and youth tend to follow similar patterns to overall rates of violent crime. In particular, children and youth living in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut were most at risk of family violence, with rates at least double those recorded in the provinces (Table 3.7). Yukon, however, diverges from the other territories, as the rate of family violence against children and youth (537 per 100,000) was less than half that of Northwest Territories (1,273 per 100,000) and Nunavut (1,708 per 100,000).

Yukon's rate of family violence was also lower than one province, Saskatchewan (537 versus 640 incidents per 100,000 population). Yukon's lower rate than the other territories and Saskatchewan can be attributed to all forms of family violence, including incidents perpetrated by parents, siblings and extended family members.

Rates of family violence against children and youth were lowest in Ontario (188 per 100,000), followed by the two most western provinces, British Columbia (257 per 100,000) and Alberta (268 per 100,000).

Children and youth most at risk of violence in small cities, towns and rural areas

It might be expected that large cities or census metropolitan areas (CMAs) would have higher rates of family violence against children and youth compared to non-CMAs, including smaller cities, towns and rural areas. However, according to police-reported data for 2010, children and youth living in non-CMAs had a higher risk of both family and non-family violence. In particular, the non-CMA rate of family violence against children and youth was more than double the rate recorded for CMAs (Table 3.8). A similar pattern was evident for non-family violence against children and youth.

Among the CMAs, children and youth living in some of the smaller CMAs were at higher risk of family violence than those living in the most populous CMAs. Rates were highest in Saguenay, Saint John and Moncton, while rates in the largest CMAs of Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver had rates of family violence against children and youth below the national average.

For both family and non-family violence, Ottawa reported the lowest rates of violent crime against children and youth (101 per 100,000 and 479 per 100,000). Also among the lowest for family violence was Peterborough and Calgary, while Sherbrooke and Calgary had the second and third lowest rates of non-family violence.

Children witnessing spousal violence[51]

While exposing children to violence does not constitute an offence under the *Criminal Code of Canada*, provincial and territorial child welfare legislation consider exposure of a child to violence as a form of maltreatment. As such, provincial and territorial welfare systems have the responsibility of investigating possible cases of child exposure to spousal violence, providing necessary services, and possibly removing children from the violent household[52] (Trocmé et al. 2010).

Children's exposure to spousal violence can take many forms. They may directly see or hear the violence of one parent against another. In other cases, they may witness violence in an indirect way following the act, such as injuries to their parent, overhearing or being told about the violence, witnessing police intervention, or moving to a temporary residence.

Previous research has found that witnessing spousal violence can result in a range of negative consequences to children, including emotional, psychological, cognitive, social and behavioural problems (Holt, et al. 2008; Kitzmann, et al. 2003; Zuckerman et al. 1995). It has been suggested that these effects may be similar to the negative outcomes for children who were physically abused (Kitzmann et al. 2003). Factors such as the child's age and sex have been found to impact the extent and nature of the adverse effects on children present in violent households. For example, some studies have indicated that children in the early stages of development display the most negative effects of witnessing violence compared to children in older age groups (Holt et al. 2008; Hornor 2005; Huth-Bocks et al. 2001). This may be attributed to their complete dependency on primary caregivers, typically their mothers, for all aspects of development (Huth-Bocks et al. 2001).

Another impact of witnessing violence is the potential intergenerational continuation of violence. In other words, there is some evidence to suggest that the cycle of violence may continue with children who have witnessed family violence (Cunningham and Baker 2004). Results from the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth show that witnessing violence increases children's physical aggression and indirect aggression (Dauvergne and Johnson 2001; Moss 2003).

In Canada, recent national level data on children's exposure to violence in the domestic sphere is available through the General Social Survey (GSS) on victimization. The GSS on victimization is based on spousal victim's reports of their children's exposure to victimization within the previous 5 years. Using the GSS on victimization,[53] it is possible to examine the prevalence of children's exposure to spousal violence, as well as the difference in the severity of these incidents, levels of reporting to police and use of social services, compared to acts of spousal violence with no child witnesses. The extent of spousal violence witnessed by children, however, will be an underestimation, since the 2009 GSS only asks respondents with children, if their children saw or heard spousal violence in the form of physical or sexual assaults. It does not ask about indirect exposure to violence or exposure to emotional or verbal spousal violence. Underestimation may also occur due to the lack of the parent's awareness of child witnesses or the parent's desire not to disclose the involvement of children for fear of repercussions or due to feelings of shame (Dauvergne and Johnson 2001).

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[51] Analysis using the GSS on victimization does not include violence against dating partners. Data from Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut are excluded. Unless otherwise noted, all differences are statistically significant at $p<0.05$.

[52] Previous research has shown that in most Canadian provinces and territories, the removal of children who are exposed to family violence often depends on whether this exposure is the only form of child maltreatment (Black et al. 2008).

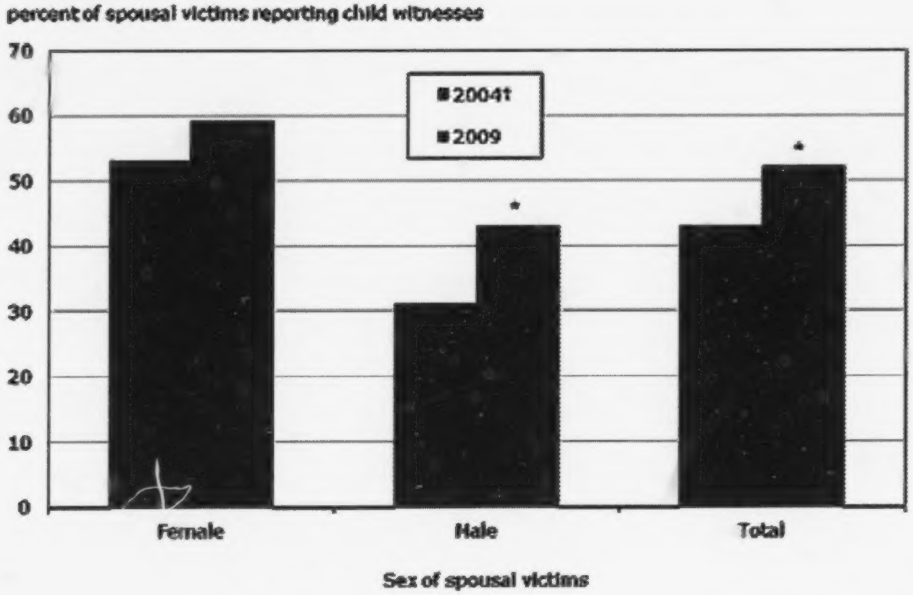
[53] Data from Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded.

Proportion of spousal violence victims whose children witnessed the violence increases from 2004

In contrast to the relative stability in rates of self-reported spousal victimization,[54] the likelihood of children seeing or hearing this type of violence has increased between 2004 and 2009. Findings from the 2009 GSS on victimization indicate that over half (52%) of all spousal violence victims with one or more children[55] reported that their children heard or saw assaults on them in the five-year period preceding the survey (Table 3.9). This was up from 43% reported in the 2004 GSS on victimization (Chart 3.7).

Chart 3.7

Victims of self-reported spousal violence (within the past 5 years) reporting the presence of child witnesses, 2004 and 2009



† reference category
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
Note: Spousal violence refers to violence against legally married, common-law, same-sex spouses and partners and includes only spousal violence victims with one or more children. Excludes a small number of cases where the victim reported they were a victim of spousal violence by both a current and previous spouse or partner. Data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, General Social Survey, 2004 and 2009.

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[54] See Brennan, S. 2011. "Self-reported spousal violence, 2009." in *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-224-X.

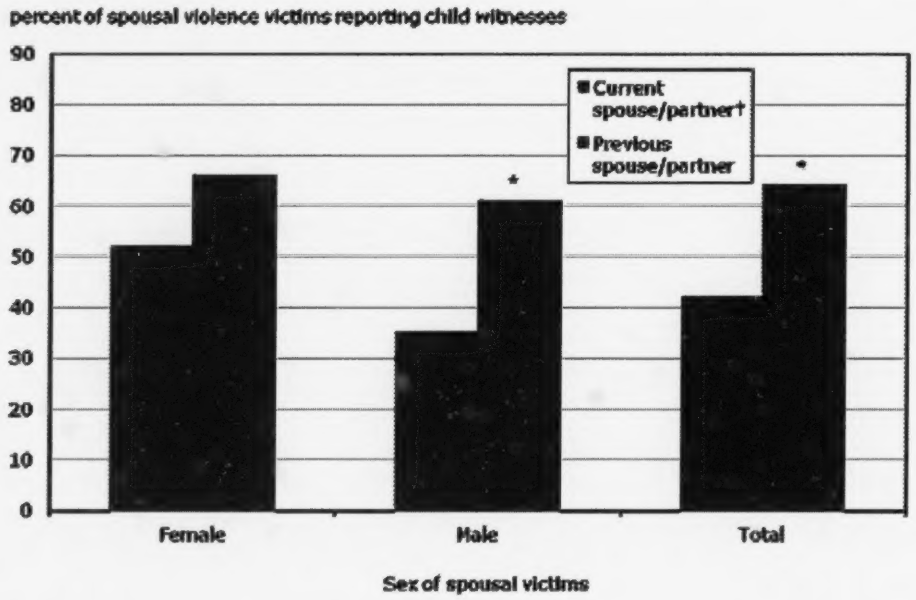
[55] Spousal violence includes violence against legally married, common-law, same-sex, separated and divorced couples. It excludes a small number of cases where the victim reported they were a victim of spousal violence by both a current and previous spouse or partner. Data from Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut are excluded.

In keeping with previous research,[56] the prevalence of exposure to violence and the severity of the spousal violence were heightened when the spousal victim was the child's mother. Almost six in ten (59%) female spousal victims with children reported that children witnessed the violent episode. In comparison, the same was true for about four in ten (43%) male spousal victims. Further, when children did witness spousal violence, physical injuries were more than twice as common in spousal violence episodes against the child's mother than those against the child's father (52% versus 22%^{E}). Female spousal victims were also more likely to report a disruption in their daily activities to cope with the violence (37% versus 21%^{E}).

Children more frequently witness violence against previous partners than against current partners

The breakdown of a relationship and the increased possibility of living in separate residences may suggest a reduction in the likelihood of children witnessing violence. However, data from the 2009 GSS show the opposite to be true, as episodes directed at previous spouses or partners were more likely to take place with children present than acts against current spouses or partners (64% versus 42%). Assaults on a father by a previous spouse or partner were almost twice as likely to be seen or heard by his children as assaults by a current spouse or partner (61% versus 35%) (Chart 3.8).

Chart 3.8
Victims of self-reported spousal violence (within the past 5 years) reporting the presence of child witnesses, by type of spousal relationship and sex of spousal victim, 2009



† reference category
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
Note: Current spouse/partner refers to legally married, common-law, same-sex spouses and partners. Previous spouse /partner refers to separated and divorced spouses and includes only spousal violence victims with one or more children. Excludes a small number of cases where the victim reported they were a victim of spousal violence by both a current and previous spouse or partner. Data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, General Social Survey, 2009.

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[56] See Beattie, K. 2005. "Family violence against children and youth." in *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-224-X, and Dauvergne, M. and H. Johnson. 2001. "Children witnessing family violence." in *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-224-X.

Children witness most severe forms of spousal violence

The severity of the spousal violence, both the forms of violence and the consequences of this violence, was elevated when children were present. Victims of spousal violence who reported the presence of children were more than twice as likely as those without child witnesses to suffer from the most severe types of violence, including being sexually assaulted, beaten, choked, or threatened/assaulted with a gun or knife (31% versus 12%^{E}) (Table 3.10).

As well, spousal victims who reported the presence of children more frequently suffered from physical injuries, another indicator of the increased severity of these incidents (Table 3.11). Four in ten spousal victims with a child witness suffered from physical injuries, more than double the proportion (19%^{E}) reported by spousal victims without any child witnesses. In some incidents with child witnesses, the injuries to the spousal victim also resulted in medical attention (20%^{E} of victims) or hospitalization (16%^{E} of victims).

Reflecting the increased seriousness of spousal violence incidents with child witnesses, spousal victims who indicated the presence of children were three times more likely than others to fear for their lives and three times more likely to take time off from their daily activities (32% versus 7%^{E} and 31% versus 9%^{E}).

Contacting police and social services more common when children witness spousal violence

The decision to report violence to police is a complex one and the victim may consider a variety of factors. In cases where a child is home during the violence, the parent must not only take into account the seriousness of the attack and his or her own safety but also the safety and well-being of the children. Whether to report the incident to police may be further complicated by the victim's apprehension to involve child welfare services, who may be contacted by police and who could intervene on behalf of the children.

According to the 2009 GSS, police involvement was more common in spousal violence incidents where a child was reported to have witnessed the violence. In all, 39% of victims whose children witnessed the spousal violence indicated that the police found out about the incident (Table 3.12). This was four times higher than the rate of police involvement in spousal violence incidents where children were not present (10%^{E}). As with other incidents of spousal violence that came to the attention of police, the majority (72%) of spousal victims who indicated that children were in the home contacted the police themselves.

Incidents of spousal violence against mothers were more likely than those against fathers to come to the attention of police (48% versus 25%^{E}). This may be partly explained by the heightened severity of spousal violence incidents against female victims and the finding that women are more likely to turn to the police than men (Brennan 2011).

Motivations behind contacting police can be varied. Stopping the violence or receiving protection was the most common reason for reporting incidents of spousal violence to police, with 93% of spousal victims with child witnesses reporting it as a factor in their decision to involve police. Other reasons included a sense of duty (51%), a desire to arrest and punish the abusive partner (34%^{E}), and on the recommendation of someone else (23%^{E}).

In addition to an increased tendency to involve police, the presence of child witnesses was also linked to higher levels of contact with formal social services. Nearly half (47%) of spousal victims with child witnesses contacted social services for help, such as a counsellor, community centre, shelter or transition home, or victim services. This was about 2.5 times higher than the use of social services by spousal victims who did not report any child witnesses during the violent episode (19%). While the increased use of social services was true for both sexes when children were present, female spousal victims more frequently sought help (56% versus 33%^{E} of male spousal victims).

Text box 3.1
Overview of findings from the 2008 Canadian Incidence Study (CIS) of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect

Based on Trocmé, N., Fallon, B., MacLaurin, B., Sinha, V., Black, T., Fast, E., Felstiner, C., Hélie, S., Turcotte, D., Weightman, P., Douglas, J., and Holroyd, J. 2010. *Canadian Incidence of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect – 2008: Major findings*. Ottawa.

In 2008, the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect-2008 (CIS-2008) collected data on incidents of child maltreatment reported to and investigated by provincial and territorial child welfare systems.[57] It was the third time this study was undertaken (previous surveys were conducted in 1998 and 2003) and the 2008 sample included nearly 16,000 cases of maltreatment from across Canada. This representative sample was then weighted to give national estimates on the extent and nature of child maltreatment investigations.

Estimates from this study indicated that there were 235,842 maltreatment cases investigated by child welfare agencies in Canada in 2008. Of these, abuse or neglect was substantiated through investigation to have taken place in 85,440 cases, representing a rate of 14 substantiated investigations per 1,000 children aged 15 and younger.[58] Exposure to intimate partner violence and child neglect were the most common forms of substantiated child maltreatment investigations, accounting for 34% each. Other categories of substantiated child maltreatment included physical abuse (20%), emotional maltreatment (9%) and sexual abuse (3%).

Injuries were inflicted on children in 8% of substantiated maltreatment cases, ranging from a low of 1% in cases of exposure to intimate partner violence to a high of 26% in cases of physical abuse. Mental or emotional harm was more frequently reported than physical harm. Almost three in ten cases of child maltreatment involved emotional harm (29%) and more than half of these cases were so severe that treatment was required. As with physical harm, the level of emotional harm varied depending on the type of maltreatment. Sexual abuse had the highest occurrence of emotional harm (47%), followed by emotional maltreatment (36%), neglect (30%), exposure to intimate partner violence (26%) and physical abuse (26%). It is noteworthy that the authors of the study (Trocmé et al. 2010) warn that these numbers may be an underestimation due to the nature of emotional harm, which may only manifest itself later.

Within the CIS, child welfare workers were also asked about the primary caregiver's risk factors for child maltreatment. In 78% of substantiated cases of maltreatment, the workers noted the presence of one or more risk factors. Being a victim of domestic violence was cited as the most common concern (46%), followed by few social supports (39%), mental health issues (27%), alcohol abuse (21%), drug or solvent abuse (17%) and being a perpetrator of domestic violence (13%).

Summary

This section explored police-reported violence against children and youth, as well as one form of child maltreatment – children witnessing spousal violence. The examination of police-reported violence against children and youth revealed some notable differences between violence committed by family members and non-family members. Girls and young children were most often victimized by family members, while boys and those over the age of eight were more likely to be victimized by individuals outside their family.

The nature of the police-reported violence also varied. Family violence against children and youth was more often characterized by physical force, while non-family violence was more likely than family violence to involve the presence of weapons. As with family violence overall, charges were more likely laid or recommended when the perpetrator was a family member.

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57. It is noteworthy that the Canadian Incidence Study (CIS) and the GSS on Victimization measure children's exposure to spousal violence differently and, therefore, comparisons should not be attempted. Differences between the CIS and GSS include, though are not limited to, differences in the definitions of children's exposure to violence, survey and sampling design, sampling frame (self-reports from Canadians versus child welfare service reports of child maltreatment), and reference period.
58. For the purpose of developing a national estimate, only children and youth under 16 years were included. This is because provinces and territories differ in the age ranges covered under legislation, with maximum ages varying from 15 to 19 years of age.

According to the General Social Survey (GSS) on victimization, the proportion of children witnessing spousal violence has increased between 2004 and 2009. Spousal violence incidents with child witnesses more often involved estranged partners and were more serious in nature (i.e., more severe types of violence and incidents resulting in injury). Perhaps as a consequence of the severity and presence of children, spousal violence incidents were more likely to come to the attention of police when children witnessed the violence.

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Detailed data tables

Table 3.1
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by type of offence and age of victim, Canada, 2010

	Adult victims (18 years and older)		Children and youth victims (0 to 17 years)		Children and youth victims by age group						Total victims
					Less than 3 years		3 to 11 years		12 to 17 years		
Type of offence	no.	rate[1]	no.	rate[1]	no.	rate[1]	no.	rate[1]	no.	rate[1]	no.
Homicide/attempted murder	**1,014**	**4**	**115**	**2**	**28**	**2**	**21**	**1**	**66**	**3**	**1,129**
Murder, manslaughter, infanticide	358	1	47	1	19	2	6	0	22	1	405
Criminal negligence causing death	67	0	17	0	6	1	2	0	9	0	84
Other related offences causing death	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Attempted murder/Conspire to commit murder	588	2	50	1	2	0	13	0	35	1	638
Sexual offences	**10,912**	**41**	**14,508**	**212**	**277**	**25**	**5,252**	**161**	**8,979**	**365**	**25,420**
Sexual assault (level 3) - aggravated	135	1	39	1	3	0	10	0	26	1	174
Sexual assault (level 2) - weapon or causing bodily harm	268	1	114	2	3	0	27	1	84	3	382
Sexual assault (level 1)	10,206	38	10,810	158	172	15	3,726	115	6,912	281	21,016
Sexual interference	...	...	2,335	34	71	6	1,133	35	1,131	46	2,335
Invitation to sexual touching	...	...	503	7	18	2	209	6	276	11	503
Luring a child via a computer	...	...	288	4	1	1	44	1	243	10	288
Incest	50	0	163	2	7	0	66	2	90	4	213
Sexual exploitation	11	0	111	2	0	0	1	0	110	4	122
Voyeurism	229	1	79	1	1	0	10	0	68	3	308
Corrupting children	...	...	47	1	1	0	16	0	30	1	47
Anal intercourse	13	0	18	0	0	0	10	0	8	0	31
Bestiality - commit, compel, incite a person	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Assaults	**201,172**	**751**	**39,046**	**571**	**1,085**	**96**	**7,529**	**231**	**30,432**	**1,238**	**240,218**
Assault (level 3) - aggravated	2,919	11	338	5	74	7	35	1	229	9	3,257
Assault (level 2) - weapon or causing bodily harm	41,896	156	8,032	117	219	19	1,526	47	6,287	256	49,928
Assault (level 1)	138,903	518	29,702	434	754	67	5,865	180	23,083	939	168,605
Pointing a firearm	479	2	147	2	1	0	18	1	128	5	626
Unlawfully causing bodily harm	411	2	92	1	7	1	15	0	70	3	503
Criminal negligence causing bodily harm	167	1	73	1	20	2	18	1	35	1	240
Using firearm or imitation firearm in commission of offence	129	0	29	0	1	0	3	0	25	1	158
Discharge firearm with intent	167	1	54	1	0	0	19	1	35	1	221
Trap likely to or causing bodily harm	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other assaults[2]	16,100	60	579	8	9	1	30	1	540	22	16,679

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3.1 (continued)
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by type of offence and age of victim, Canada, 2010

	Adult victims (18 years and older)		Children and youth victims (0 to 17 years)		Children and youth victims by age group						Total victims
					Less than 3 years		3 to 11 years		12 to 17 years		
Type of offence	**no.**	**rate[1]**	**no.**	**rate[1]**	**no.**	**rate[1]**	**no.**	**rate[1]**	**no.**	**rate[1]**	**no.**
Deprivation of freedom	**3,454**	**13**	**1,044**	**15**	**103**	**9**	**376**	**12**	**565**	**23**	**4,498**
Kidnapping and forcible confinement	3,454	13	623	9	29	3	113	3	481	20	4,077
Abduction/Removal of child from Canada	...	...	421	6	74	7	263	8	84	3	421
Other violent offences	**104,804**	**391**	**19,170**	**280**	**389**	**34**	**2,070**	**64**	**16,711**	**680**	**123,974**
Criminal harassment	17,011	63	2,122	31	18	2	215	7	1,889	77	19,133
Uttering threats	47,720	178	8,628	126	257	23	1,371	42	7,000	285	56,348
Indecent or harassing phone calls	17,119	64	1,295	19	14	1	97	3	1,184	48	18,414
Trafficking in persons	22	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	25
Other[3]	22,932	86	7,122	104	100	9	387	12	6,635	270	30,054
Total	**321,356**	**1,199**	**73,883**	**1,080**	**1,882**	**167**	**15,248**	**469**	**56,753**	**2,308**	**395,239**

...not applicable

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 populations. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

2. Includes assaults against police and other peace officers, as well as other types of assaults such as administering noxious thing.

3. Other violent offences include robbery, extortion, arson - disregard for human life, intimidation of a justice system participant or journalist, intimation of a non-justice participant, and other violent violations.

Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.2
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by family and non-family members and type of offence, Canada, 2010

	Victims of family violence[1]		Victims of non-family violence[2]		Total	
Type of offence	number	rate[3]	number	rate[3]	number	rate[3]
Homicide/attempted murder	**51**	**1**	**64**	**1**	**115**	**2**
Murder, manslaughter, infanticide	26	0	21	0	47	1
Criminal negligence causing death	8	0	9	0	17	0
Other related offences causing death	1	0	0	0	1	0
Attempted murder/conspire to commit murder	16	0	34	0	50	1
Sexual offences	**5,509**	**81**	**8,999**	**132**	**14,508**	**212**
Sexual assault (level 3) - aggravated	10	0	29	0	39	1
Sexual assault (level 2) - weapon or causing bodily harm	32	0	82	1	114	2
Sexual assault (level 1)	4,106	60	6,704	98	10,810	158
Sexual interference	968	14	1,367	20	2,335	34
Invitation to sexual touching	136	2	367	5	503	7
Luring a child via a computer	12	0	276	4	288	4
Incest	163	2	0	0	163	2
Sexual exploitation	25	0	86	1	111	2
Voyeurism	27	0	52	1	79	1
Corrupting children	21	0	26	0	47	1
Anal intercourse	8	0	10	0	18	0
Bestiality - commit, compel, incite a person	1	0	0	0	1	0
Physical assault	**10,974**	**160**	**28,072**	**410**	**39,046**	**571**
Assault (level 3) - aggravated	127	2	211	3	338	5
Assault (level 2) - weapon or causing bodily harm	1,932	28	6,100	89	8,032	117
Assault (level 1)	8,713	127	20,989	307	29,702	434
Pointing a firearm	16	0	131	2	147	2
Unlawfully causing bodily harm	21	0	71	1	92	1
Criminal negligence causing bodily harm	23	0	50	1	73	1
Using firearm or imitation firearm in commission of offence	1	0	28	0	29	0
Discharge firearm with intent	7	0	47	1	54	1
Trap likely to or causing bodily harm	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other assaults[4]	134	2	445	7	579	8
Deprivation of freedom	**410**	**6**	**634**	**9**	**1,044**	**15**
Kidnapping and forcible confinement	142	2	481	7	623	9
Abduction/removal of child from Canada	268	4	153	2	421	6

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3.2 (continued)
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by family and non-family members and type of offence, Canada, 2010

	Victims of family violence[1]		Victims of non-family violence[2]		Total	
Type of offence	**number**	**rate[3]**	**number**	**rate[3]**	**number**	**rate[3]**
Other violent offences	**1,766**	**26**	**17,404**	**254**	**19,170**	**280**
Criminal harassment	179	3	1,943	28	2,122	31
Uttering threats	1,289	19	7,339	107	8,628	126
Indecent or harassing phone calls	87	1	1,208	18	1,295	19
Trafficking in persons	0	0	3	0	3	0
Other[5]	211	3	6,911	101	7,122	104
Total	**18,710**	**274**	**55,173**	**807**	**73,883**	**1,080**

1. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents, siblings, extended family and spouses.
2. Non-family violence refers to violence committed by acquaintances, friends, neighbours, authority figures (e.g., teacher, daycare worker), dating partners, criminal associates, business associates and strangers.
3. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 populations. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
4. Includes assaults against police and other peace officers, as well as other types of assaults such as administering noxious thing.
5. Other violent offences include robbery, extortion, arson - disregard for human life, intimidation of a justice system participant or journalist, intimation of a non-justice participant, and other violent violations.

Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.3
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of family-related homicides, by age group of the victim and cause of death, Canada, 2000 to 2010

	Victim's age group											
	Less than 1 year		1 to 3 years		4 to 6 years		7 to 11 years		12 to 17 years		Total	
Cause of death	**no.**	**%**	**no.**	**%**	**no.**	**%**	**no.**	**%**	**no.**	**%**	**no.**	**%**
Strangulation, suffocation or drowning	25	25	19	19	8	19	9	24	16	23	77	22
Beating	25	25	37	37	7	16	3	8	5	7	77	22
Stabbing	5	5	14	14	7	16	10	27	22	31	58	16
Shaken Baby Syndrome[1]	32	31	13	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	45	13
Shooting	1	1	6	6	7	16	8	22	18	26	40	11
Poisoning or lethal injection	0	0	3	3	8	19	2	5	4	6	17	5
Fire (smoke inhalation, burns)	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	3	2	3	5	1
Other[2]	8	8	4	4	4	9	1	3	3	4	20	6
Unknown	6	6	2	2	2	5	3	8	0	0	13	4
Total	**102**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**43**	**100**	**37**	**100**	**70**	**100**	**352**	**100**

... not applicable

1. 'Shaken Baby Syndrome' refers to homicides committed against a baby (under the age of three years) where the primary cause of death resulted from being shaken, tossed or thrown.

2. Includes causes of death not otherwise stated. Examples include exposure/hypothermia, deaths caused by motor vehicles, starvation, heat, etc.

Note: Family-related homicides refers to homicides committed by parents, siblings, extended family members, and spouses. Excludes homicides where the age and/or sex of the victim was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Percentages exclude homicides in which the cause of death was reported by police as unknown. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 3.4
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by family and non-family members, by sex and age group of the victim, Canada, 2010

	Victims of family violence[1]		Victims of non-family violence[2]		Total	
Age group of victim	**number**	**rate[3]**	**number**	**rate[3]**	**number**	**rate[3]**
Female						
Less than 3	635	116	286	52	921	168
3 to 11	4,003	253	3,401	215	7,404	468
12 to 17	6,626	552	22,424	1,868	29,050	2,420
Total	**11,264**	**338**	**26,111**	**784**	**37,375**	**1,122**
Male						
Less than 3	676	117	285	49	961	166
3 to 11	3,192	191	4,652	278	7,844	469
12 to 17	3,578	284	24,125	1,916	27,703	2,201
Total	**7,446**	**212**	**29,062**	**828**	**36,508**	**1,040**
Total						
Less than 3	1,311	116	571	51	1,882	167
3 to 11	7,195	221	8,053	248	15,248	469
12 to 17	10,204	415	46,549	1,893	56,753	2,308
Total	**18,710**	**274**	**55,173**	**807**	**73,883**	**1,080**

1. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents, siblings, extended family and spouses.
2. Non-family violence refers to violence committed by acquaintances, friends, neighbours, authority figures (e.g., teacher, daycare worker), dating partners, criminal associates, business associates and strangers.
3. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 populations. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.5
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by family and non-family members, by sex of the victim and type of offence, Canada, 2010

	Female victim		Male victim		Total	
Type of offence	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**	**rate[1]**
Family violence[2]	**11,264**	**338**	**7,446**	**212**	**18,710**	**274**
Homicide	15	0.5	20	0.6	35	0.5
Attempted murder	10	0.3	6	0.2	16	0.2
Physical assault[3]	5,555	167	5,419	154	10,974	160
Sexual offences	4,473	134	1,036	30	5,509	81
Kidnapping/abduction	231	7	180	5	411	6
Other violent crimes[4]	980	29	785	22	1,765	26
Non-family violence[5]	**26,111**	**784**	**29,062**	**828**	**55,173**	**807**
Homicide	9	0.3	21	0.6	30	0.4
Attempted murder	6	0.2	28	0.8	34	0.5
Physical assault[3]	11,099	333	16,973	484	28,072	410
Sexual offences	7,299	219	1,700	48	8,999	132
Kidnapping/abduction	471	14	169	5	640	9
Other violent crimes[4]	7,227	217	10,171	290	17,398	254

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 populations. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
2. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents, siblings, extended family and spouses.
3. Physical assaults includes all forms of assaults, including assault levels 1,2, and 3, unlawfully causing bodily harm, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, using a firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm, discharging firearm with intent, trap likely to cause bodily harm and other assaults.
4. Other violent offences include robbery, extortion, arson-disregard for human life, intimidation of a justice system participant or journalist, intimidation of a non-justice participant, and other violent violations.
5. Non-family violence refers to violence committed by acquaintances, friends, neighbours, authority figures (e.g., teacher, daycare worker), dating partners, criminal relationships, business relationships and strangers.

Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.6
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by family and non-family members and most serious weapon present, Canada, 2010

	Victims of family violence[1]		Victims of non-family violence[2]		Total	
Type of weapon	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
No weapon/threat	1,669	10	10,223	20	11,892	17
Physical force	13,153	76	32,518	62	45,671	66
Weapons						
Firearms	112	1	1,335	3	1,447	2
Knife, other piercing/cutting instrument[3]	565	3	3,079	6	3,644	5
Club/blunt instrument	417	2	1,237	2	1,654	2
Other weapon[4]	1,336	8	3,712	7	5,048	7
Unknown	1,458	...	3,069	...	4,527	...
Total	**18,710**	**100**	**55,173**	**100**	**73,883**	**100**

... not applicable

1. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents, siblings, extended family and spouses.
2. Non-family violence refers to violence committed by acquaintances, friends, neighbours, authority figures (e.g., teacher, daycare worker), dating partners, criminal associates, business associates and strangers.
3. Knife includes other piercing/cutting instrument, such as a hatchet, razor blade or broken bottle.
4. Includes other types of weapons such as explosives, fire, motor vehicles or poison.

Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Unknown weapons were excluded in the calculation of percentages. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.7
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by family and non-family members, by province and territory, 2010

	Victims of family violence[1]		Victims of non-family violence[2]		Total	
Province and territory	**number**	**rate[3]**	**number**	**rate[3]**	**number**	**rate[3]**
Newfoundland and Labrador	363	390	993	1,067	1,356	1,456
Prince Edward Island	81	281	243	842	324	1,123
Nova Scotia	566	325	1,976	1,134	2,542	1,458
New Brunswick	565	401	1,570	1,113	2,135	1,514
Quebec	4,690	310	9,963	659	14,653	970
Ontario	5,032	188	18,994	709	24,026	896
Manitoba	1,116	407	3,674	1,340	4,790	1,747
Saskatchewan	1,512	640	3,657	1,549	5,169	2,189
Alberta	2,199	268	6,206	756	8,405	1,023
British Columbia	2,186	257	7,091	835	9,277	1,092
Yukon	39	537	130	1,788	169	2,325
Northwest Territories	148	1,273	320	2,753	468	4,026
Nunavut	213	1,708	356	2,855	569	4,563
Canada	**18,710**	**274**	**55,173**	**807**	**73,883**	**1,080**

1. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents, siblings, extended family and spouses.
2. Non-family violence refers to violence committed by acquaintances, friends, neighbours, authority figures (e.g., teacher, daycare worker), dating partners, criminal associates, business associates and strangers.
3. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 populations. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.8
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by family and non-family members, by census metropolitan area, 2010

Census metropolitan area (CMA)[1, 2]	**Victims of family violence**[3]		**Victims of non-family violence**[4]		**Total**	
	number	**rate**[5]	**number**	**rate**[5]	**number**	**rate**[5]
Saguenay	112	434	275	1,066	387	1,500
Saint John	90	434	294	1,416	384	1,850
Moncton	92	362	210	825	302	1,187
Trois-Rivières	87	344	161	637	248	981
Kelowna	109	344	231	728	340	1,072
Regina	155	332	480	1,029	635	1,362
Saskatoon	193	329	625	1,065	818	1,394
Halifax	214	290	865	1,173	1,079	1,463
St. John's	100	287	315	904	415	1,192
Québec	361	275	826	629	1,187	903
Montréal	1,935	254	4,529	594	6,451	845
Brantford	71	251	341	1,203	412	1,454
Kingston	71	241	209	711	280	952
Edmonton	584	241	1,862	767	2,446	1,008
Gatineau[6]	141	218	515	797	656	1,015
Winnipeg	336	206	1,714	1,050	2,050	1,256
London	196	205	654	683	850	887
Hamilton[7]	215	201	1,005	941	1,220	1,142
Windsor	127	197	415	645	542	842
Thunder Bay	43	197	271	1,239	314	1,435
Greater Sudbury	61	196	274	881	335	1,077
Victoria	111	194	426	745	537	939
Vancouver	835	189	3,144	710	3,979	898
Sherbrooke[8]	64	182	177	502	241	684
St. Catharines-Niagara	154	181	534	627	688	808
Toronto[9]	1,865	174	6,976	651	8,841	944
Abbotsford-Mission	68	168	281	696	349	864
Guelph	41	160	156	610	197	771
Barrie	51	159	225	702	276	861
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo	179	158	879	775	1,058	933

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3.8 (continued)
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by family and non-family members, by census metropolitan area, 2010

Census metropolitan area (CMA)[1, 2]	**Victims of family violence**[3]		**Victims of non-family violence**[4]		**Total**	
	number	**rate**[5]	**number**	**rate**[5]	**number**	**rate**[5]
Calgary	390	147	1,378	520	1,768	667
Peterborough	29	134	149	686	178	820
Ottawa[10]	190	101	902	479	1,092	580
CMA Total[11]	**9,643**	**204**	**31,298**	**693**	**42,363**	**897**
Non-CMA	**9,067**	**428**	**23,875**	**1,061**	**31,520**	**1,489**
Canada	**18,710**	**274**	**55,173**	**807**	**73,883**	**1,080**

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
2. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.
3. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents, siblings, extended family and spouses.
4. Non-family violence refers to violence committed by acquaintances, friends, neighbours, authority figures (e.g., teacher, daycare worker), dating partners, criminal associates, business associates and strangers.
5. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 populations. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
6. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
7. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police that polices the CMA of Hamilton.
8. The 2010 data for the Sherbrooke CMA are estimates based on 2009 data due to the unavailability of data in 2010.
9. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.
10. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
11. Includes Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police, which are responsible for policing more than one CMA. This total also includes the portion of Durham Regional Police that polices the Oshawa CMA. Because of these inclusions, the CMA total will not equal the total of the individual CMAs.

Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.9
Victims of self-reported spousal violence (within the past 5 years) reporting the presence or absence of child witnesses, by sex of spousal victim, 2009

Sex of spousal violence victim	**Children witnessed violence**		**Children did not witness violence/no children at the time**		**Not stated/ don't know**		**Total**	
	number	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
Female victim[†]	206,378	59	134,170	39	F	F	348,506	100
Male victim	129,669	43[*]	173,333	57[*]	F	F	303,002	100
Total[1, 2]	**336,047**	**52**	**307,503**	**47**	**F**	**F**	**652,005**	**100**

† reference category
F Too unreliable to be published
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
1. Includes only those spousal violence victims with one or more children. Excludes a small number of cases where the victim reported they were a victim of spousal violence by both a current and previous spouse or partner.
2. Spouse includes legally married, common-law, same-sex, separated, and divorced couples. Excludes dating relationships.
Note: Data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding. Totals may not add to 100% due to not stated and don't know responses.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 3.10
Victims of self-reported spousal violence (within the past 5 years) reporting the presence or absence of child witnesses, by type of violence, 2009

	Children witnessed violence[†]		**Children did not witness violence**	
Type of spousal violence[1, 2]	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
Threatened to hit, threw something	59,740[E]	18[E]	69,777[E]	23
Pushed, grabbed, shoved, slapped	96,285	29	116,825	38
Kicked, bit, hit, hit with something	71,995[E]	21[E]	83,192[E]	27
Sexually assaulted, beaten, choked, threatened/assaulted with a gun or knife	103,692	31	36,928[E]	12[E*]
Not stated/don't know	F	F	F	F
Total	**336,047**	**100**	**307,503**	**100**

† reference category
E use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
1. Includes only those spousal violence victims with one or more children. Excludes a small number of cases where the victim reported they were a victim of spousal violence by both a current and previous spouse or partner.
2. Spouse includes legally married, common-law, same-sex, separated and divorced spouses. Excludes dating relationships.
Note: Data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding. Totals may not add to 100% due to not stated and don't know responses.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 3.11
Victims of self-reported spousal violence (within the past 5 years) reporting the presence or absence of child witnesses, by sex of spousal victim and consequences of spousal violence, 2009

Consequence of spousal violence	Female spousal victims		Male spousal victims		Total	
	Children witnessed violence†	Children did not witness violence	Children witnessed violence	Children did not witness violence	Children witnessed violence†	Children did not witness violence
	percent					
Adult victim was physically injured						
Yes	52	22^{E}	22^{E**}	16^{E}	41	19^{E*}
No	48	78	78	84	59	81
Adult victim received medical attention for injuries						
Yes	22^{E}	F	F	F	20^{E}	F
No	78	97	86	96	80	96
Adult victim was hospitalized for injuries						
Yes	18^{E}	F	F	F	16^{E}	F
No	82	100	88	96	84	98
Adult victim feared for their life						
Yes	48	11^{E}	F	F	32	7^{E*}
No	52	89	95	97	68	93
Adult victim took time off from daily activities						
Yes	37	19^{E}	21^{E**}	F	31	9^{E*}
No	63	81	79	98	69	91

† reference category

^{E} use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category, total spousal victims whose children witnessed violence ($p < 0.05$)

** significantly different from reference category, female spousal victims whose children witnessed violence ($p < 0.05$)

Note: Includes only those spousal violence victims with one or more children. Excludes a small number of cases where the victim reported they were a victim of spousal violence by both a current and previous spouse or partner. Spouse includes legally married, common-law, same-sex, separated, and divorced couples. Excludes dating relationships. Data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded. Totals may not add to 100% due to not stated and don't know responses.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 3.12
Victims of self-reported spousal violence (within the past 5 years) reporting the presence or absence of child witnesses, by sex of spousal victim and contact with police, 2009

Sex of spousal violence victim	Children witnessed violence		Children did not witness violence	
	Police contact†	No police contact	Police contact	No police contact
	percent			
Male spousal victim	25E	75	F	94
Female spousal victim	48	52	15E*	82
Total	**39**	**61**	**10E***	**89**

† reference category
E use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
Note: Excludes a small number of cases where the victim reported they were a victim of spousal violence by both a current and previous spouse or partner. Includes only those spousal violence victims with one or more children. Spouse includes legally married, common-law, same-sex, separated, and divorced couples. Excludes dating relationships. Data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded. Totals may not add to 100% due to not stated and don't know responses.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Section 4: Family violence against seniors

By Maire Sinha and Shelly Milligan

Family violence can occur across the entire lifespan, including into the older years of adulthood (Walsh et al. 2007). Violence against seniors may be a continuation of family violence into the older years, as in some cases of spousal victimization, or alternatively, violence may first begin during the senior years. Like all types of violent crime, this violence exists within the larger socio-demographic framework of Canadian society. Any major shifts in this framework, such as changes in the size and composition of the senior population, can impact the prevalence and nature of family violence against seniors (Chappell et al. 2003). Indeed, the current population of seniors is undergoing notable changes.

Persons aged 65 years and older now represent a growing segment of the Canadian population, from 9% in 1981 to 14% of the population in 2009 (Statistics Canada 2010).[59] The impact of this population growth on the prevalence of family violence against seniors is complex when considering the heterogeneity of the senior population.

Population health research suggests that seniors are generally healthier, more active, and more financially secure than in the past (Turcotte and Schellenberg 2007). In fact, seniors score higher than their younger counterparts on a number of indicators of both mental and physical health, particularly perceived well-being and psychological stress (Turcotte and Schellenberg 2007). Indicators of financial security for seniors have also improved, namely a decline in low income among seniors, a growth in assets, and an increase in home ownership (Turcotte and Schellenberg 2007). These factors suggest that the current population of seniors are less dependent on others than previous generations (Chappell et al. 2003).

While the growing majority of seniors require little outside assistance (Chappell et al. 2003), longer life expectancy of seniors means that the proportion of the oldest seniors has grown. These seniors are more likely than younger seniors to suffer from physical or cognitive impairments, which often necessitate either informal sources of support from family members or formal social support services (Bravell et al. 2008). Seniors with disabilities may be especially vulnerable to victimization at the hands of caregivers, as previous research has found that individuals, including older adults, with disabilities are generally more at risk of victimization than able bodied persons (Brennan 2012; Perreault 2009).

This section profiles family violence against seniors, namely those aged 65 years and older, to better understand the unique nature of this violence among the diverse population of seniors in Canada. To this end, police-reported data are used to examine the prevalence, risk factors, severity, motivations, police charging, regional variations and trends in family violence against seniors. These characteristics are contrasted against violence against seniors not involving family members. Included in the comparative analysis of family and non-family violence are all violent *Criminal Code* incidents against seniors substantiated by police. Not included are those incidents that are not *Criminal Code* offences, such as emotional abuse, as well as non-violent incidents, such as theft or fraud.

Prevalence of police-reported violence against seniors

Rates of family violence lowest among senior Canadians

Canadians' risk of being the victim of a violent crime generally decreases with age. As a reflection of this overall pattern, seniors had the lowest rates of police-reported violent crime, regardless of whether this violence was perpetrated by a family member or someone outside the family network. In 2010, there were 61 senior victims of family violence per 100,000 population, totalling nearly 2,800 senior victims of police-reported violence. This rate of family violence was about 7.5 times lower than that of the most at-risk age group of 25-to-34 year olds, and half the rate of the second oldest age cohort of 55-to-64 year olds (Chart 4.1).

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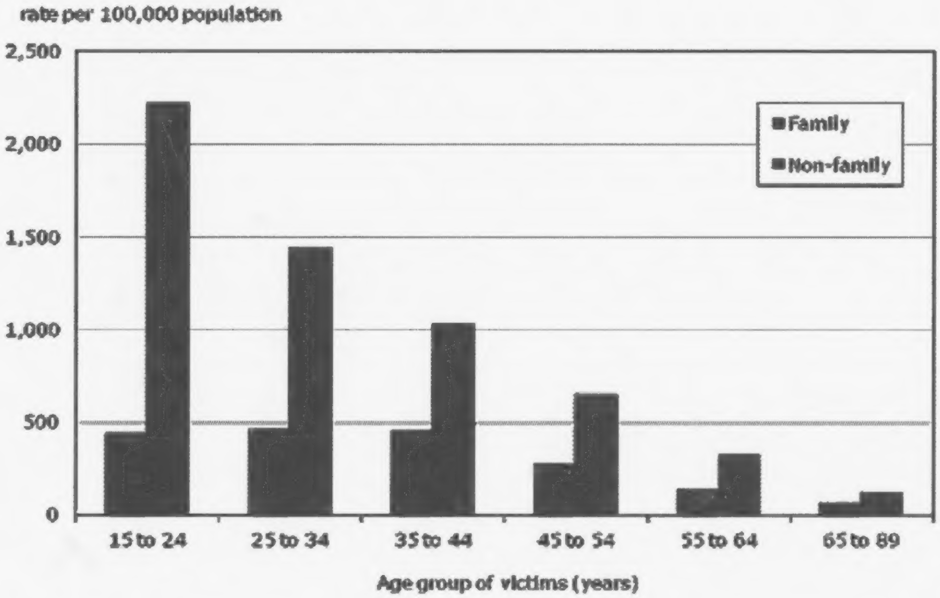
[59] The leading contributors to this growth include the ageing baby boomer population, the decrease in fertility rates and the increase in life expectancies (Turcotte and Schellenberg 2007).

Chart 4.1
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by family and non-family members and age group of victim, Canada, 2010



Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses, children, siblings, and extended family. Spouses include victims aged 15 to 89 years. All other family relationships include victims aged 0 to 89 years. Non-family violence refers to violence committed by friends, casual acquaintances, dating partners, business associates, criminal associates, authority figures, and strangers. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

One possible explanation for the reduced likelihood of family violence among seniors relates to seniors' lower levels of exposure to potential perpetrators compared to their younger counterparts. According to the 2006 Census, a greater proportion of seniors than non-senior adults between the ages of 18 and 64 years lived alone, rather than with family members (28% versus 11%). Further, seniors who live healthy and independent lives often do not require the assistance from grown children (Chappell et al. 2003). Also, in some cases, particularly among senior women, seniors outlive their spouses and are therefore not at risk of spousal violence (Chappell et al. 2003).

In 2010, seniors' risk of family violence was lower than their risk of violence committed by a friend or acquaintance, but higher than their risk of stranger-perpetrated violence (Table 4.1). Altogether, the rate of family violence against seniors was half that of non-family violence (61 per 100,000 versus 124 per 100,000).

As discussed in Section 1, some academic and research communities have considered the inclusion of all forms of intimate partner violence, namely spousal and dating violence, within a definition of family violence. Based on 2010 police-reported data, incorporating dating violence within the category of family violence would have a negligible impact on the prevalence of family violence against seniors. That is, the rate of family violence against seniors including dating violence would be only slightly higher than a rate exclusive of dating violence (65 victims per 100,000 population versus 61 victims per 100,000 population).

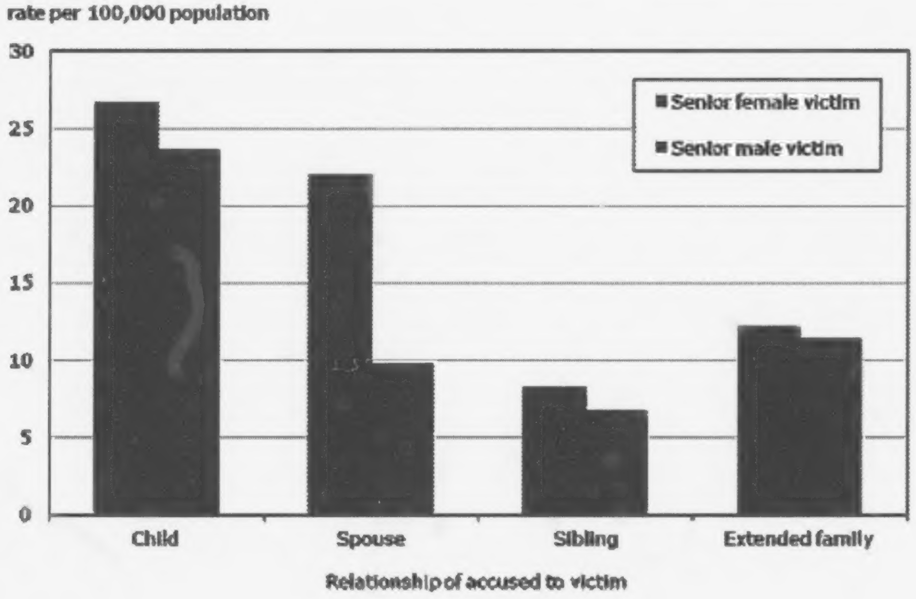
Risk factors for violence against seniors[60]

Senior women more at risk of family violence than senior men

As with patterns for police-reported violence against younger adults, gender differences in risk of victimization depend on whether the violence occurs within or outside the family network. In 2010, senior women were more vulnerable to family violence, with rates 34% higher than those of senior men. Conversely, senior men's rate of non-family violence was almost double that for senior women (166 versus 90 per 100,000).

The heightened risk of family violence among women can be largely explained by senior women's higher prevalence of spousal violence compared to senior men (Table 4.1, Chart 4.2). Specifically, in 2010, the rate of spousal violence for senior women was more than double the rate for senior men (22 versus 10 per 100,000 population). Senior women were also slightly more likely than senior men to be victimized by their children in 2010 (27 per 100,000 versus 24 per 100,000 population).

Chart 4.2
Senior victims of police-reported violent crime by family members, by sex of victim and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2010



Note: Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population of seniors aged 65 to 89. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

For both sexes, grown children were the most common perpetrators of family violence (39% of women and 46% of men). This was particularly the case when the violence escalated in the killing of seniors. Over the past decade, half (50%) of all family homicides against seniors were committed by grown children.

Younger seniors more vulnerable to violent crime than older seniors

Age is an important factor associated with seniors' vulnerability to both family and non-family violence. Historically, younger seniors have been more at risk of violence than older seniors by both their family members and other types of perpetrators (Sinha 2011; Ogrodnik 2007). Data from 2010 confirm these earlier findings for both family and non-family violence against seniors. In particular, age-specific rates of family violence against seniors peak at age 65 and then generally decline (Chart 4.3).

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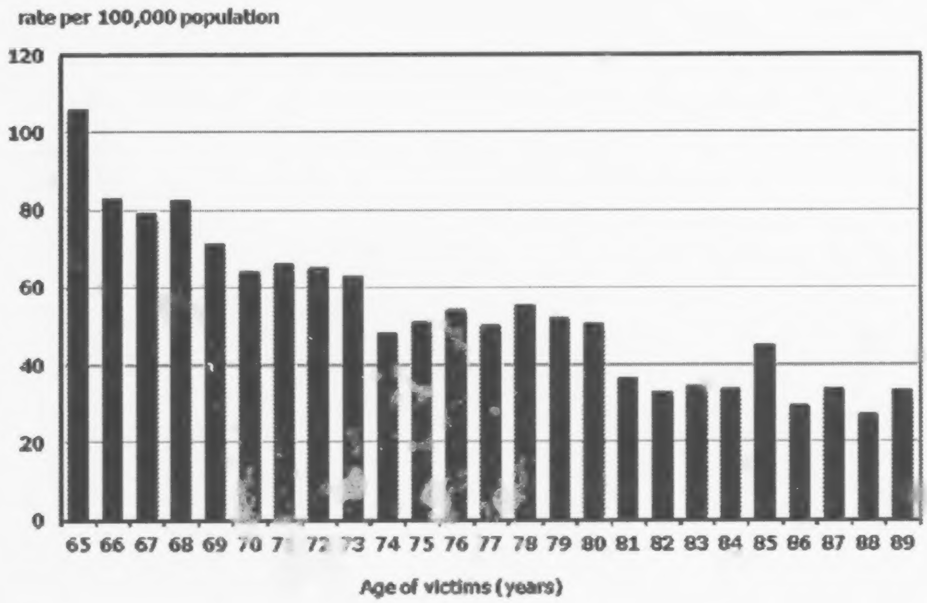
[60] The following sections examine the characteristics of family violence according to the definition of family violence exclusive of dating violence.

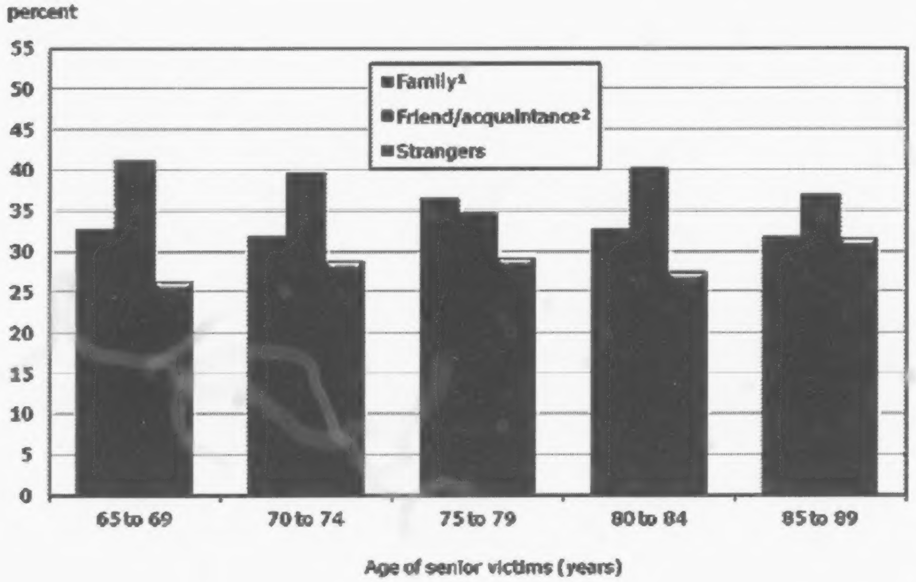
Chart 4.3
Senior victims of police-reported violent crime by family members, by age of victim, Canada, 2010



Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses, children, siblings, and extended family. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population of seniors aged 65 to 89. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

The type of perpetrator responsible for violence against seniors is also closely connected to the age of seniors. Seniors in their mid-to-late 70s were more likely to be victimized by their family members, particularly grown children (Chart 4.4). The same cannot be said for all seniors, however, as seniors were most often victimized by friends and acquaintances when they were in their 60s and early 70s, as well as when they were over the age of 80.

Chart 4.4
Senior victims of police-reported violent crime, by age group of victim and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2010



1. Family refers to spouses, children, siblings, and extended family.
2. Friend/acquaintance refers to friends, casual acquaintances, dating partners, business associates, criminal associates, and neighbours.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

Among incidents of family violence, the representation of grown children as accused family members increases as seniors age, perhaps reflecting seniors' increasing levels of dependence and the growing likelihood of being widowed. In 2010, 36% of family perpetrators against seniors aged 65 to 69 years were grown children, followed by spouses at 30%. By age 85 to 89 years, grown children accounted for nearly half (49%) of all family perpetrators, while spouses represented 21% of family perpetrators.

Severity of violence against seniors

Common assault most frequent form of family violence against seniors

Offence type, use of weapons, and prevalence of injuries can be indicators of the severity of violent crime. According to police-reported data, the types of criminal offences committed against senior victims of family and non-family violence differ in important ways. In 2010, physical assaults occurred more frequently in family violence incidents against seniors compared to non-family violence incidents (67% versus 45%) (Table 4.2). Common assault, the least serious form of assaults, accounted for the majority of these violations.

Physical assaults were more common in spousal violence than other forms of family violence against seniors. In 2010, police-reported physical assaults accounted for 81% of incidents committed by spouses, higher than the proportion involving grown children (66%), accused siblings (64%) and extended family members (53%).

One offence almost exclusively committed by non-family members was robbery. This offence accounted for 13% of non-family violence incidents against seniors. In comparison, 1% of family violence incidents involved robbery. For the most serious crimes of homicide, there was no difference between the proportions committed by family and non-family members.

Family violence against seniors more likely than non-family violence to involve the use of physical force

As with violent crime in general, the majority of violence perpetrated against seniors does not involve the use of weapons. This was the case for both family and non-family violence (Table 4.3). More specifically, in 2010, weapons were used against 14% of senior victims of family violence and 16% of victims of non-family violence. Despite the similarity in the overall prevalence of weapon use, when a weapon was used, firearms were less commonly used by family members than non-family members (6% versus 17%) against the senior victim. This can be partly explained by the higher volume of robbery offences among incidents of non-family violence against seniors, as the commission of robbery offences more often than other violent offences involves the presence of a firearm (35% of non-family violence incidents).

Physical force was used to a greater degree by accused family members than other perpetrators. This was particularly evident when the victim was a spouse or parent. In 2010, 61% of family violence incidents against seniors involved the use of physical force, compared to 50% of non-family violence incidents. Gender differences in the use of physical force were virtually non-existent for both family and non-family violence against seniors.

Senior victims of family violence more likely than other senior victims to sustain injuries

Accused family members' greater use of physical force translates into a higher frequency of injuries among senior victims of family violence. In 2010, 39% of senior victims of family violence sustained injuries as a result of the violent crime, while the same was true for 30% of non-family violence victims (Table 4.4). Minor treatment, such as first aid, as opposed to professional medical intervention, was required for most of these injuries (93% of family violence and 91% of non-family violence incidents). While there were no notable gender differences in the occurrence of injuries for incidents of family violence (40% of males and 39% of females), male victims of non-family violence were more likely than female victims to sustain injuries (34% versus 24%).

There were some differences in the likelihood of injuries depending on the victim and accused familial relationship. Injuries were most common among senior victims of spousal violence (48%), followed by victims of violence from grown children (39%), siblings (37%) and extended family members (30%). These patterns can be attributed to the higher volume of physical assaults and lower volume of uttering threat offences directed at spousal victims compared to other family violence victims.

Motives in homicides against seniors

Using data from the Homicide Survey, it is possible to examine the motivating factors underlying homicides against seniors. Over the previous decade, there were salient differences in the motives of accused family members and other perpetrators. Frustration and the escalation of an argument were the two most common motivating factors in family homicides against seniors, each accounting for at least one-quarter of family homicides (32% and 26%) (Table 4.5).

In comparison, financial gain was the leading motive in non-family homicides of seniors (30%). This can be largely attributed to the fact that one in four senior victims (25%) of non-family homicide was killed during the commission of a robbery. A similar proportion of family and non-family homicides against seniors were committed without any apparent motive (20% and 19%).

Clearance rates

Family violence against seniors more likely than other violence against seniors to result in charges

There are a number of ways police may discover that a senior has been or is being victimized. Seniors may report the violence themselves, while at other times violence may be reported by another individual, including witnesses, family members and professionals. In some provinces, reporting suspected abuse of seniors is mandated through adult protection legislation, which compels professionals working with seniors to report cases of suspected abuse (AuCoin 2003). Still, some proportion of violence against seniors will never come to the attention of police. Underreporting may be particularly pronounced in cases where seniors are isolated and levels of detection are consequently lower (Teaster et al. 2006; Grama 2000).

When family violence against seniors does come to the attention of police, it is more likely than other forms of violence against seniors to result in charges being laid or recommended. Just over-half (51%) of incidents of family violence resulted in a charge, higher than the 31% charge rate for non-family violence incidents against seniors (Table 4.6). Family violence incidents were also slightly more likely to be cleared by other means (33% versus 29%), such as the senior victim declining to lay charges and departmental discretion.

Trends and regional patterns in violence against seniors

Family homicides against seniors decrease

As previously mentioned, family violence against seniors may never reach the attention of police (Sev'er 2009). Based on results from the 2009 General Social Survey,[61] just under half (46%) of all violent incidents against older adults, aged 55 and older, were reported to police (Brennan 2012). Issues of reporting, however, are non-existent when the violence culminates in the death of the victim (Nivette 2011; Gannon et al. 2005). Consequently, any shifts in the homicide rate of seniors can be taken as a strong indicator of overall trends in violence against seniors.

Despite annual fluctuations, rates of family homicide against seniors have been relatively stable over the past fifteen years (Chart 4.5). In the past, rates of family homicides against seniors have been generally lower than rates of non-family homicide. However, the more steady and sharp declines in non-family homicides against seniors, particularly during the 1980s, compared to family homicide have resulted in rates of family and non-family homicide against seniors that are at near parity in recent years.

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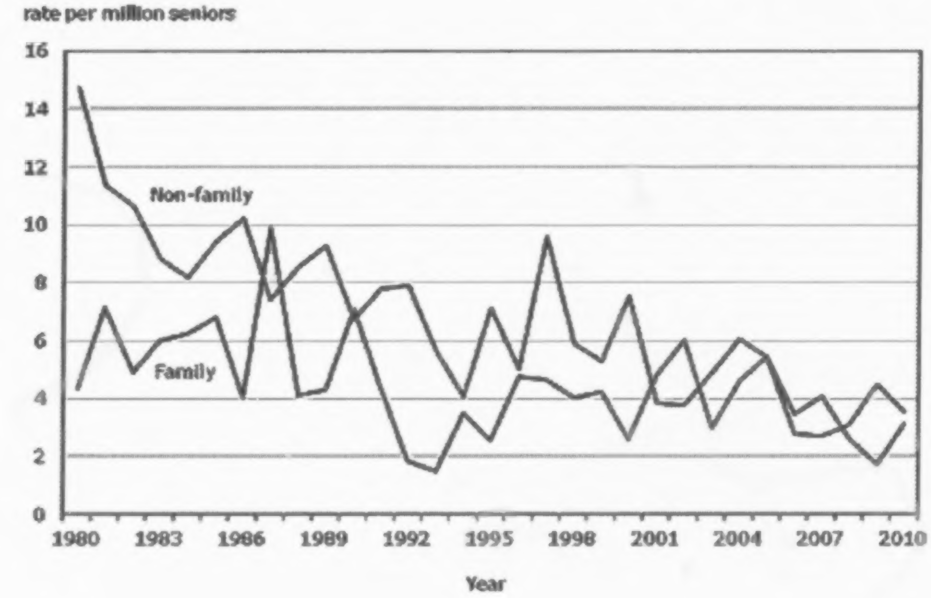
[61] The General Social Survey on Victimization is a household survey conducted every five years that asks Canadians about their experiences of victimization. Data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded. For further details, see Section 1 and the Data sources section.

Chart 4.5
Senior victims of homicide, by family and non-family members, Canada, 1980 to 2010



Note: Family homicide refers to homicide committed by spouses, children, siblings, and extended family. Non-family homicide refers to homicide committed by friends, casual acquaintances, dating partners, business associates, criminal associates, authority figures, and strangers. Excludes homicides where the age and/or sex of the victim was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 seniors aged 65 years and older. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Rates of family violence against seniors highest in western provinces

Provincial and territorial rates of family violence against seniors tend to vary in the same way as overall violent crime rates. In particular, in 2010, seniors living in the territories had a higher risk of family violence than seniors residing in the provinces (Table 4.7). Nunavut also differed from the provinces, as well as the other territories, in that the rate of family violence against seniors was higher than that of non-family violence (2,312 versus 905 per 100,000 population).

At the provincial level, western provinces consistently recorded the highest rates of family violence against seniors, without exception. In the same vein, rates of non-family violence against seniors were highest in British Columbia, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. However, the rate of non-family violence in Alberta was below those of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Quebec.

Along with provincial variations in overall prevalence of violence against seniors, gender differences in family violence against seniors varied in some provinces and territories (Table 4.7). That is, senior women's elevated risk of family violence was not evident in all provinces. Senior men living in Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island were more likely than senior women to be a victim of family violence.

Family violence against seniors lower in census metropolitan areas

There may be a perception that the cities or census metropolitan areas (CMAs),[62] have higher rates of violent crime than non-CMAs. This was not the case for violence against seniors, particularly for family violence against seniors. The likelihood of seniors being a victim of family violence was lower among those living in a CMA and highest among those seniors residing in non-CMA areas (51 versus 79 per 100,000 seniors) (Table 4.8).

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[62] A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.

Some of the smaller CMAs were among those with the highest rates of family violence against seniors. Abbotsford-Mission recorded the highest rate of family violence against seniors (103 per 100,000), followed by Regina (85), and Peterborough (74). Apart from Peterborough, all CMAs had rates of family violence lower than rates of non-family violence.

Summary

In keeping with findings from previous years, seniors had the lowest risk of police-reported violent crime in 2010. While both the age and sex of seniors impacted this risk, seniors were generally more likely to be a victim of non-family violence than family violence. However, violence against seniors was sometimes more severe when the perpetrator was a family member, as senior victims of family violence were more likely than other senior victims to be physically assaulted and, consequently, they were also more frequently injured.

Regional variations in family and non-family violence against seniors followed similar patterns. Provincial rates of family and non-family violence against seniors were generally highest in the west and lowest in the east. Non-census metropolitan areas of Canada had higher rates of family violence against seniors compared to census metropolitan areas.

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Detailed data tables

Table 4.1
Senior victims of police-reported violent crime, by accused-victim relationship and sex of victim, Canada, 2010

	Female		Male		Total	
Accused-victim relationship	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**	**rate[1]**
Total family	**1,728**	**69**	**1,062**	**51**	**2,790**	**61**
Grown child[2]	668	27	488	24	1,156	25
Spouse[3]	551	22	201	10	752	16
Sibling[4]	205	8	139	7	344	8
Extended family[5]	304	12	234	11	538	12
Total friends, acquaintances, other	**1,301**	**52**	**2,033**	**98**	**3,334**	**73**
Friend or acquaintance[6]	1,017	41	1,577	76	2,594	57
Dating partner[7]	125	5	97	5	222	5
Business relationship	157	6	344	17	501	11
Criminal relationship	2	0	15	1	17	0
Stranger	948	38	1,394	67	2,342	51
Unknown	1	...	3	...	4	...
Total violence against seniors	**3,978**	**159**	**4,492**	**217**	**8,470**	**185**

... not applicable

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 seniors (65 to 89 years). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
2. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster children. Includes a small number of victims where the relationship of the accused to the victim was recoded to grown child.
3. Includes current and former legally married and common-law spouses.
4. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.
5. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption. Examples include grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws.
6. Includes friends, neighbours, authority figures and casual acquaintances.
7. Includes girlfriend/boyfriend (current and previous) and other intimate partners.

Note: Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.2
Senior victims of police-reported violent crime, by family and non-family violence and type of offence, Canada, 2010

	Family[1]		Non-family[2]		Total	
Type of offence	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
Homicide	15	0.5	26	0.5	41	0.5
Attempted murder	5	0	4	0	9	0
Sexual assault (levels 1, 2, 3)	26	1	183	3	209	2
Physical assault	1,873	67	2,532	45	4,405	52
Serious assault (levels 2 and 3)	341	12	529	9	870	10
Common assault (level 1)	1,455	52	1,882	33	3,337	39
Other assaults[3]	77	3	121	2	198	2
Robbery	29	1	734	13	763	9
Extortion	24	1	47	1	71	1
Criminal harassment	114	4	348	6	462	5
Uttering threats	474	17	1,025	18	1,499	18
Indecent/harassing phone calls	193	7	684	12	877	10
Other violent offences[4]	37	1	93	2	130	2
Total	**2,790**	**100**	**5,676**	**100**	**8,466**	**100**

1. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners), children, siblings, and extended family.
2. Non-family violence refers to violence committed by friends, dating partners, casual acquaintances, business associates, criminal associates, authority figures, and strangers.
3. Other assaults include unlawfully causing bodily harm, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, using a firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm, discharging firearm with intent, trap likely to cause bodily harm and other assaults.
4. Includes arson (disregard for human life), intimidation of a justice system participant or a journalist, intimidation of non-justice participant, kidnapping, and other violent offences.

Note: Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.3
Senior victims of police-reported violent crime, by family and non-family violence and type of weapon, Canada, 2010

	Family[1]		Non-family[2]		Total	
Type of weapon	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
Threats or no weapon	674	25	1,808	34	2,482	31
Physical force	1,633	61	2,640	50	4,273	53
Weapon	381	14	851	16	1,232	15
Club or blunt instrument	74	3	129	2	203	3
Knife or other piercing instrument	122	5	204	4	326	4
Firearm	21	1	141	3	162	2
Other weapon[3]	164	6	377	7	541	7
Unknown	102	...	377	...	479	...
Total	**2,790**	**100**	**5,676**	**100**	**8,466**	**100**

... not applicable
1. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced, and common-law partners), children, siblings, and extended family.
2. Non-family violence refers to violence committed by friends, dating partners, casual acquaintances, business relationships, criminal relationships, authority figures, and strangers.
3. Includes, for example, explosives, fire, motor vehicle or poison.
Note: Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown type of weapon. Percentages may not add up due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.4
Senior victims of police-reported violent crime, by family and non-family violence and level of injury, Canada, 2010

	Family[1]		Non-family[2]		Total	
Level of injury	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
No injuries[3]	1,603	61	3,761	70	5,364	67
Minor physical injuries[4]	971	37	1,486	28	2,457	31
Major physical injuries/death[5]	69	3	151	3	220	3
Unknown[6]	147	...	278	...	425	...
Total	**2,790**	**100**	**5,676**	**100**	**8,466**	**100**

... not applicable
1. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced, and common-law partners), children, siblings, and extended family.
2. Non-family violence refers to violence committed by friends, dating partners, casual acquaintances, business relationships, criminal relationships, authority figures, and strangers.
3. Includes incidents that did not involve the use of weapons or physical force as well as those in which no visible injuries were noted by police.
4. Refers to injuries that required no professional medical treatment or only some first aid (e.g., bandage, ice).
5. Refers to injuries that required professional medical attention at the scene or transportation to a medical facility or injuries that result in death.
6. Unknown injuries have been excluded in the calculation of percentages.
Note: Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown injuries. Percentages may not add up due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.5
Senior victims of homicide, by family and non-family homicide and type of motive, Canada, 2000 to 2010

	Family[1]		Non-family[2]		Total	
Type of motive	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
Argument	43	26	38	20	81	23
Frustration, anger or despair	53	32	35	18	88	25
Jealousy	4	2	6	3	10	3
Revenge	4	2	6	3	10	3
Financial gain[3]	11	7	61	32	72	20
Fear of apprehension	2	1	5	3	7	2
Mercy killing or assisted suicide	8	5	0	0	8	2
No apparent motive[4]	32	20	36	19	68	19
Other[5]	7	4	6	3	13	4
Unknown	11	...	10	...	21	...
Total	**175**	**100**	**203**	**100**	**378**	**100**

... not applicable

1. Family-related homicides are homicides committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced, and common-law partners), children, siblings or other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption.

2. Non-family homicides are homicides committed by friends, dating partners, casual acquaintances, business relationships, criminal relationships, authority figures, and strangers.

3. Includes, for example, robberies and homicides committed to obtain insurance monies or inheritances.

4. Includes, for example, mental illness and dementia.

5. Includes, for example, sexual violence, personal protection and settling of gang or drug-related accounts.

Note: Senior victims refer to those aged 65 years and over. Excludes unsolved homicides, homicides where the victim-accused relationship and sex of the victim was unknown. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown motives. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 4.6
Senior victims of police-reported violent crimes, by family and non-family violence and type of clearance status, Canada, 2010

	Family[1]		**Non-family**[2]		**Total**	
Type of clearance status	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
Not cleared[3]	413	16	2,070	39	2,483	32
Cleared by charge	1,330	51	1,627	31	2,957	38
Cleared otherwise	876	33	1,545	29	2,421	31
Complainant requests charges not be laid	553	21	784	15	1,337	17
Reasons beyond the control of department	78	3	146	3	224	3
Departmental discretion	214	8	526	10	740	9
Other[4]	31	1	89	2	120	2
Total	**2,619**	**100**	**5,242**	**100**	**7,861**	**100**

1. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced, and common-law partners), children, siblings, and extended family.
2. Non-family violence refers to violence committed by friends, dating partners, casual acquaintances, business relationships, criminal relationships, authority figures, and strangers.
3. 'Not cleared' refers to incidents where an accused person has not been identified in connection with the incident.
4. 'Cleared by other means' includes suicide of accused, death of accused, death of witness/complainant, accused is less than 12 years of age, committal of accused to mental hospital, accused in foreign country, accused involved in other incidents, accused already sentenced, diversionary programs, incidents cleared by a lesser statute, incident cleared by other municipal/provincial/federal agency.

Note: Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes information from the Montréal Police Service due to the unavailability of clearance data in 2010.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.7
Senior victims of police-reported violent crime by family members, by sex of victim, province and territory, 2010

	Female		**Male**		**Total**	
Province and territory	**number**	**rate**[1]	**number**	**rate**[1]	**number**	**rate**[1]
Newfoundland and Labrador	20	50	26	75	46	62
Prince Edward Island	3	26	3	31	6	28
Nova Scotia	51	65	36	56	87	61
New Brunswick	45	73	34	66	79	70
Quebec	397	62	229	44	626	54
Ontario	553	58	278	36	831	48
Manitoba	77	89	56	81	133	85
Saskatchewan	93	121	69	108	162	115
Alberta	163	80	118	68	281	74
British Columbia	289	84	188	62	477	74
Yukon	6	452	4	264	10	352
Northwest Territories	17	1,517	12	1,014	29	1,259
Nunavut	14	2,917	9	1,748	23	2,312
Canada	**1,728**	**69**	**1,062**	**51**	**2,790**	**61**

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 seniors (65 to 89 years). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Note: Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners), children, siblings, and extended family. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.8
Senior victims of police-reported violent crime, by family and non-family violence and census metropolitan area, 2010

Census metropolitan area (CMA)[1, 2]	**Family**[3]		**Non-family**[4]		**Total**	
	number	**rate**[5]	**number**	**rate**[5]	**number**	**rate**[5]
Abbotsford-Mission	23	103	33	147	56	250
Regina	22	85	26	100	48	185
Peterborough	16	74	5	23	21	97
Saguenay	17	70	25	103	42	173
Saskatoon	20	67	35	117	55	184
Toronto[6]	370	61	742	123	1,112	184
Kelowna	19	60	45	142	64	202
Vancouver	172	59	554	190	726	249
Brantford	11	59	22	117	33	176
Gatineau[7]	19	58	41	125	60	183
Thunder Bay	11	56	26	132	37	188
St. John's	12	55	34	157	46	212
Québec	61	53	157	137	218	191
Montréal	278	53	660	126	938	179
Edmonton	66	53	140	112	206	165
London	33	51	49	76	82	127
Calgary	56	51	102	92	158	143
Windsor	21	51	59	142	80	192
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo	30	50	56	94	86	145
Saint John	7	50	29	206	36	255
Victoria	29	49	66	111	95	160
St.Catharines-Niagara	36	47	68	90	104	137
Kingston	11	46	51	211	62	256
Moncton	7	38	15	81	22	119
Hamilton[8]	26	34	156	203	182	237
Trois-Rivières	9	33	20	74	29	108
Sherbrooke[9]	8	28	21	75	29	103
Winnipeg	27	27	132	133	159	161
Guelph	4	26	13	85	17	111

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 4.8 (continued)
Senior victims of police-reported violent crime, by family and non-family violence and census metropolitan area, 2010

Census metropolitan area (CMA)[1, 2]	**Family**[3]		**Non-family**[4]		**Total**	
	number	**rate**[5]	**number**	**rate**[5]	**number**	**rate**[5]
Halifax	12	25	72	148	84	172
Greater Sudbury	5	21	20	82	25	103
Barrie	3	20	9	59	12	78
Ottawa[10]	18	16	90	81	108	97
CMA Total[11]	**1,459**	**51**	**3,573**	**123**	**5,032**	**174**
Non-CMA Total	**1,331**	**79**	**2,103**	**126**	**3,434**	**205**
Canada	**2,790**	**61**	**5,676**	**124**	**8,466**	**185**

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
2. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.
3. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced, and common-law partners), children, siblings, and extended family.
4. Non-family violence refers to violence committed by friends, dating partners, casual acquaintances, business relationships, criminal relationships, authority figures, and strangers.
5. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 seniors (65 to 89 years). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
6. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.
7. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
8. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police that polices the CMA of Hamilton.
9. The 2010 data for the Sherbrooke CMA are estimates based on 2009 data due to the unavailability of data in 2010.
10. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
11. Includes Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police, which are responsible for policing more than one CMA. This total also includes the portion of Durham Regional Police that polices the Oshawa CMA. Because of these inclusions, the CMA total will not equal the total of the individual CMAs.

Note: Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Data sources

Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey collects detailed information on criminal incidents that have come to the attention of, and have been substantiated by Canadian police services. Information includes characteristics pertaining to incidents (weapon, location), victims (age, sex, accused-sex relationships) and accused persons (age, sex). In 2010, data from police services covered 99% of the population of Canada.

Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey collects detailed information on all homicides that have come to the attention of, and have been substantiated by, Canadian police services. Information includes characteristics pertaining to incidents (weapon, location), victims (age, sex, accused-victim, relationship), and accused persons (age, sex). Coverage for the Homicide Survey has represented 100% of the population since recording began in 1961. The count for a particular year represents all homicides reported in that year, regardless of when the death actually occurred.

General Social Survey on Victimization

In 2009, Statistics Canada conducted the victimization cycle of the General Social Survey (GSS) for the fifth time. Previous cycles were conducted in 1988, 1993, 1999 and 2004. The objectives of the survey are to provide estimates of Canadians' personal experiences of eight offence types, examine risk factors associated with victimization, examine reporting rates to police, measure the nature and extent of spousal violence, measure fear of crime and examine public perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system.

Sampling

The target population included all persons 15 years and older in the 10 Canadian provinces, excluding full-time residents of institutions. The survey was also conducted in the three Canadian territories using a different sampling design and its results will be available in a separate report to be released in 2011. Households were selected by a telephone sampling method called Random Digit Dialling (RDD). Households without telephones or with only cellular phone service were excluded. These two groups combined represented approximately 9% of the target population (Residential Telephone Service Survey, (RTSS), December 2008). Therefore, the coverage for 2009 was 91%.

Once a household was contacted, an individual 15 years or older was randomly selected to respond to the survey. The sample in 2009 was approximately 19,500 households, a smaller sample than in 2004 (24,000).

Data collection

Data collection took place from February to November 2009 inclusively. The sample was evenly distributed over the 10 months to represent seasonal variation in the information. A standard questionnaire was administered by telephone using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). A typical interview lasted 45 minutes. Prior to collection, all GSS questions went through qualitative and pilot testing.

Response rates

Of the 31,510 households that were selected for the GSS Cycle 23 sample, 19,422 usable responses were obtained. This represents a response rate of 61.6%. Types of non-response included respondents who refused to participate, could not be reached, or could not speak English or French. Respondents in the sample were weighted so that their responses represent the non-institutionalized Canadian population aged 15 years or over, in the ten provinces. Each person who responded to the 2009 GSS represented roughly 1,400 people in the Canadian population aged 15 years and over.

Data limitations

As with any household survey, there are some data limitations. The results are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling error. Somewhat different results might have been obtained if the entire population had been surveyed. This *Juristat* article uses the coefficient of variation (CV) as a measure of the sampling error. Any estimate that has a high CV (over 33.3%) has not been published because the estimate is too unreliable. In these cases, the symbol 'F' is used in place of an estimate in the figures and data tables. An estimate that has a CV between 16.6 and 33.3 should be used with caution and the symbol 'E' is referenced with the estimate. Where descriptive statistics and cross-tabular analysis were used, statistically significant differences were determined using 95% confidence intervals.

Using the 2009 GSS sample design and sample size, an estimate of a given proportion of the total population, expressed as a percentage is expected to be within 0.95 percentage points of the true proportion 19 times out of 20.